



BADGER STATE

SMOKE SIGNALS

For Radio Amateurs • By Radio Amateurs

Published Monthly Since 1969 • Our 29th Year
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IN THIS ISSUE: OFFICIAL RULES AND FORMS FOR

THE 1998 WISCONSIN QSO PARTY

Sunday, March 15, 1998

Noon until 7 p.m. CST

(1800 UTC March 15 - 0100 UTC March 16)

Sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Assembly bill could severely curtail use of mobile "telecommunications devices"

A bill probably drafted with the best of intentions, but which may pose a risk to all mobile radio services, has been introduced in the Wisconsin Assembly.

Likely primarily motivated by a fatal crash in a southern Wisconsin county apparently caused by a cellular telephone user, AB 680 could restrict all two-way radio services used in vehicles. That includes cell and PCS, Amateur Radio, CB, taxicabs, delivery services, police, fire, ambulance, and any other service one could think of.

If BSS's information is correct, that fatal crash was caused by more than the use of a cell telephone. It is said that the driver of the offending vehicle was also **reading a blueprint or other document on the seat of the vehicle.**

AB 680 is so overly broad that it would be extremely unlikely to withstand a court test, in the opinion of a Baraboo attorney. It is an attempt to legislate common sense, as the Legislative Reference Bureau's analysis of AB 680 seems to indicate.

If needed, current statutes could be properly rewritten to be (1) practical, (2) legal, and (3) sometimes actually enforceable.

Here is the text of the bill:

SECTION 1. 346.89 (1m) of the statutes is created to read:

346.89 (1m) No person while driving a motor vehicle shall be so engaged or occupied with the use of a mobile telecommunications device as to interfere with the safe driving of such vehicle or as to impede the normal and reasonable movement of traffic.

SECTION 2. 346.95 (2g) of the statutes is created to read:

346.95 (2g) Any person violating s. 346.89 (1m) may be required to forfeit not less than \$50 nor more than \$400.

However, the Legislative Reference Bureau's (LRB) analysis says:

"Current law prohibits inattentive driving. The driver of a motor vehicle is prohibited from being so engaged or occupied as to interfere with the safe driving of the vehicle. Violators may be required to forfeit not less than \$20 nor more than \$400.

"This bill prohibits the driver of a motor vehicle from being so engaged or occupied with the use of a mobile telecommunications device as to interfere with the safe driving of the vehicle or as to impede the flow of traffic. The bill does not define "mobile communications device".

We suggest that you provide your representative and senator with input on AB 680. Snail mail, telephone call, or e-mail all work. If you wish to look at the Wisconsin Legislature Web site, the URL is: <http://www.legis.state.wi>

Assembly on InterNet Web audio

Assembly Speaker Scott Jensen's office tells us that before you read this, audio of Assembly proceedings should be available on the Web. The audio was scheduled to begin with the legislature's reconvening on January 15. Go to the above URL, and then, from the opening screen, click on "Assembly", and then from the Assembly menu, click on "Session Audio".

The site also has e-mail addresses of all assemblypersons and senators who have e-mail (a few do not want it).

(BSSS thanks Ben Brancel, Sen. Bob Welch, and Rep. Scott Jensen for their help in getting information for this story.)

A good Scout

Seth T. King, N9LHX, was recently awarded the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America.

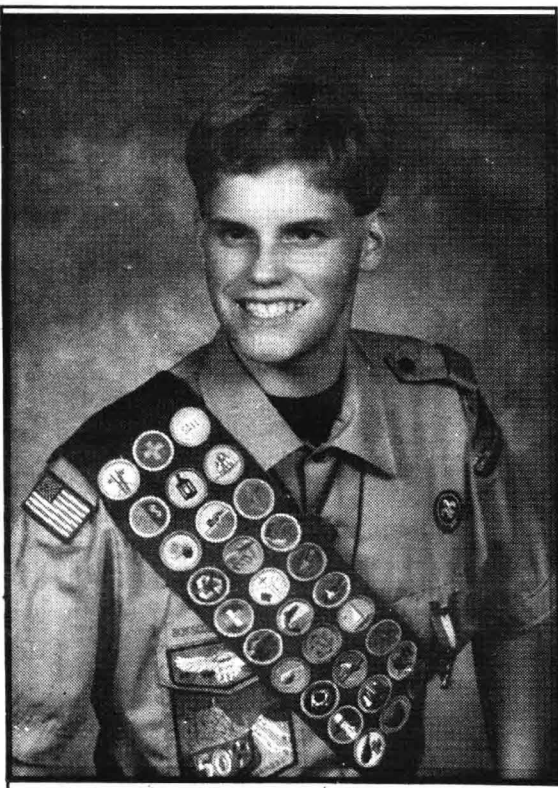
Seth is a Junior at Memorial High School in Eau Claire, and is a member of Troop 88, BSA, sponsored by Hope United Methodist Church, his home church. He is also a brotherhood member of the Otyokwa Lodge of the Order of the Arrow, Chippewa Valley Council, BSA.

Seth earned the Eagle Scout rank at age 16, having begun his Scouting career at age 7 as a Tiger Cub.

His final major Eagle Scout project involved over a year of promotion and organization of junior ski jumping training and competitions for youth ages 3-12 in the Chippewa Valley area, as well as organizing and leading improvement work at the Mount Washington Junior Ski Jumping Complex in Eau Claire. Seth is a member of the Eau Claire Junior Flying Eagles Ski Jumping Club and has served as youth president of the organization the past three years.

Seth is an Honor Card Student at Memorial High, and has been selected to *Who's Who in American High Schools* each year that he has been in high school. He has also been a dependable, active volunteer with his church, as well as with Habitat for Humanity, the Morse 2000 Outreach, and the Chippewa Valley Museum.

Seth was first licensed at age 9 in Grade 4. He is employed by Long's Sports Store in Eau Claire during the school year, and as a Scouting skills instructor at Phillips Scout Reservation, Haugen, WI, during the summer.



Seth T. King, N9LHX

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Edited by Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901 • kebnetter@palacenet.net

Swapfests and Other Social Events

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1998. Red Cedar Repeater Association Auction, American Legion Post 53, 634 Water Street, Eau Claire, WI. Contact Steve Hart, KA9OMC, E616 810th Ave., Knapp, WI 54749. (715) 665-2374

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 1998. SEWFARS Swapfest, Waukesha County Expo Center, Waukesha, WI. Contact: SEWFARS Inc., PO Box 102, Delafield, WI 53018, (414) 358-1003.
<http://www.execpc.com/~mjadams/SEWFARS.html>

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1998. The Milwaukee School of Engineering ARC swapfest will be held at the MSOE Student Life and Campus Center Auditorium, 1025 N. Broadway, Milwaukee, WI from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact: MSOE ARC, MSOE CC-346, 1025 N Broadway, Milwaukee, WI. Web Page: www.msOE.edu/st_orgs/w9hhx e-mail: serrew@msOE.edu

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 1998. Tri County ARC Hamfest 1998, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Jefferson WI. Contact TCARC, 213 Frederick St., Fort Atkinson, WI 53538. (920) 563-6381 (evenings).

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, APRIL 3 & 4, 1998. Amateur Electronic Supply Superfest. Contact: Ray Grenier, K9KHW, (414) 358-4088, rayk9khw@aol.com

SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 1998. Madison Swapfest. NEW LOCATION - John Q Hammons Trade Center. Lower Prices, Free parking. Contact: MARA, PO Box 8890, Madison, WI 53708-8890. (608) 245-8890.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1998. 21st Rochester Minnesota Hamfest, Graham Arena East, Olmsted County

Fairgrounds, Rochester MN. Contact: N0HZN, 4552 5th St. NW, Rochester, MN 55901. (507) 285-6522. e-mail n0hzn@aol.com. Also on the web at <http://members.aol.com/rarchams>.

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1998. Twentieth Annual Cedarburg Swapfest. Held at the Circle-B Recreation Center, Highway 60 and County I (located 20 miles north of Milwaukee, west of Grafton. Contact: Ozaukee Radio Club, W58 N985 Essex Drive. Cedarburg. WI 53012-1439. (414) 377-2784 or (414) 284-3271.

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1998. Lakeshore Hamfest and Computer Swapfest. Manitowoc County Expo, intersection of Hwys 42-151 and I-43 on Cty. Hwy. R, Manitowoc, WI. Contact: ManCoRad Radio Club, P.O. Box, 204, Manitowoc, WI 54221-0204. Glen, AA9BT (920) 684-7096 or Red, N9GHE, (920) 684-9097.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 1998. 21st annual Central Wisconsin Radio Amateurs Swapfest and Auction, U.S. Army Reserve Center, Junction City, WI. Contact: John Feltz, W9JN, 973 E First St., Junction City, WI 54443-9614. (715) 457-2506. e-mail jfw9jn@tzn.net

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1998. South Milwaukee Amateur Radio Club Swapfest, American Legion Park, Shepard Avenue, South Milwaukee, WI. Contact South Milwaukee ARC, P.O. Box 102, South Milwaukee, WI 53172. (414) 762-3235.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 1998. The Marshfield Area Radio Club will be holding their 8th annual picnic in the park, Hamnic at Wildwood Park. Gather around noon. Bring a dish to pass. Contact: Christopher Stron, KB9NMH or Guy Boucher guyboucher@tzn.net

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1998. Circus City Swapfest, Sauk County Fairgrounds, Baraboo WI. Contact: Steve Schulze, N9UDO, (608) 356-2313/356-4777 or Bill Klinkner, N9KXX, (608) 643-6908/643-6453. <http://www.thelorax.com/~ssschulze/hamfest.htm>

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 1998. Peoria Area ARC SUPERFEST. Contact: Superfest '98, P.O. Box 3508, Peoria IL 61616-3508.

See also the back page and flyer ads for additional information on many of these events.

Let us know of your dates as soon as you know them. We will list them and perhaps help avoid conflicts with other events.

As a service to our readers, this section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available without charge to list your upcoming Swapfest, Hamfest, dinner, picnic, party or other event of interest to Radio Amateurs in Wisconsin and nearby areas. Send information on your event to Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. In addition, space is available at attractive rates on our advertising pages. For information on rates and requirements for our advertising pages, please contact K9ZZ or K9EN.

CLUB MEETINGS

Due to space limitations, we cannot always carry the full listing of Wisconsin and area club meetings. Please see the October 1997 meetings column for the latest complete listing. The following changes have been reported to BSSS since that listing.

ROCK RIVER RADIO CLUB

Monthly - first Tue. - 7:30 p.m. at Dodge County Administration Building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, WI.
ARES Net: 146.04/146.64 Mondays at 7:30 p.m.
Sat. on 7277 KHz at 10:30 a.m.

Badger State Smoke Signals

Amateur Radio Education and Information

CHAIRMAN: Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage, WI 53901. Telephone (608) 742-3560. kebnetter@palacenet.net

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EDITORIAL BOARD: Ken Ebnetter, K9EN; Dave Knaus, WA9POV; Don Evenson, K9JYX; Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ.

Subscriptions

1 year	(12 issues)	\$13.95
2 years	(24 issues - save \$1.95)	\$25.95
3 years	(36 issues - save \$3.90)	\$37.95

Subscription form is on page 5. Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month for the next month's issue. For example, the closing date for the June issue is May 1. The only exception is for participating clubs' minutes. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than FIVE DAYS after the club's meeting. For example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than

the 9th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections should be sent to Ken Ebnetter. Editorial material, photographs, feature articles, display ads, and exchange papers should be sent to Jim Romelfanger.

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebnetter. Club, swapfest, and Test Point information should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Swapfest ADS should be sent to Jim Romelfanger NO LATER THAN EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE THE EVENT'S DATE.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Ken Ebnetter.

Conditions for Reprinting or BBS Posting Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

Permission is hereby granted to reprint articles or posting articles on radio or telephone bulletin boards from *Badger State Smoke Signals*, providing credit is given to the original author, publication in which the article first appeared, and to *Badger State Smoke Signals*. THIS CREDIT IS MANDATORY, AND NO MATERIAL MAY BE PRINTED OR POSTED UNLESS IT IS GIVEN.

This newspaper is produced by volunteer Radio Amateurs, and is non-profit. This newspaper is mailed from Portage, WI 53901.

Badger State Smoke Signals is incorporated as a Wisconsin non-stock, non-profit organization.

Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.

The Test Point



Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Wisconsin Area

February 07, 1998	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
February 07, 1998	Racine, WI
February 07, 1998	St. Paul, MN
February 07, 1998	Onalaska, WI
February 07, 1998	Pewaukee, WI
February 09, 1998	Libertyville, IL
February 12, 1998	Apple Valley, MN
February 12, 1998	Winona, MN
February 14, 1998	Blaine, MN
February 14, 1998	Madison, WI
February 14, 1998	Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
February 17, 1998	Eden Prairie, MN
February 21, 1998	Cottage Grove, MN
February 21, 1998	Love's Park, IL
February 21, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
February 24, 1998	Dixon, IL
February 28, 1998	Bloomington, MN
February 28, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
February 28, 1998	Tomahawk, WI
March 07, 1998	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
March 07, 1998	Racine, WI
March 07, 1998	St. Paul, MN
March 09, 1998	Libertyville, IL
March 12, 1998	Apple Valley, MN
March 14, 1998	Blaine, MN
March 14, 1998	Madison, WI
March 14, 1998	Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
March 14, 1998	Friendship, WI
March 16, 1998	McHenry, IL
March 17, 1998	Eden Prairie, MN
March 18, 1998	Sheboygan, WI

March 21, 1998	Appleton, WI
March 21, 1998	Cottage Grove, MN
March 21, 1998	Loves Park, IL
March 21, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
March 21, 1998	Redgranite, WI
March 22, 1998	Davenport, IA
March 28, 1998	Bloomington, MN
March 28, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
March 28, 1998	Tomahawk, WI
March 28, 1998	Menomonie, WI
April 04, 1998	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
April 04, 1998	Racine, WI
April 04, 1998	St. Paul, MN
April 09, 1998	Apple Valley, MN
April 11, 1998	Blaine, MN
April 11, 1998	Eau Claire, WI
April 11, 1998	Madison, WI
April 11, 1998	Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
April 13, 1998	Libertyville, IL
April 18, 1998	Cottage Grove, MN
April 18, 1998	Loves Park, IL
April 18, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
April 18, 1998	Mount Pleasant, IA
April 21, 1998	Eden Prairie, MN
April 25, 1998	Bloomington, MN
April 25, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
April 25, 1998	Tomahawk, WI
May 02, 1998	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
May 02, 1998	Racine, WI
May 02, 1998	St. Paul, MN
May 09, 1998	Blaine, MN
May 09, 1998	Madison, WI
May 09, 1998	Manitowoc, WI
May 09, 1998	Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
May 09, 1998	Onalaska, WI
May 14, 1998	Apple Valley, MN
May 16, 1997	Redgranite, WI
May 16, 1998	Cottage Grove, MN
May 16, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
May 16, 1998	Sheboygan, WI
May 16, 1998	Loves Park, IL
May 19, 1998	Eden Prairie, MN
May 23, 1998	Bloomington, MN
May 30, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
May 30, 1998	Tomahawk, WI
June 06, 1998	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
June 06, 1998	Racine, WI
June 06, 1998	St. Paul, MN
June 11, 1998	Apple Valley, MN
June 13, 1998	Blaine, MN
June 13, 1998	Madison, WI
June 13, 1998	Marshfield, WI
June 13, 1998	Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
June 16, 1998	Eden Prairie, MN
June 20, 1998	Cottage Grove, MN
June 20, 1998	Loves Park, IL
June 20, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
June 27, 1998	Bloomington, MN
June 27, 1998	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
June 27, 1998	Tomahawk, WI
July 15, 1998	Sheboygan, WI
August 15, 1998	Redgranite, WI
September 12, 1998	Sheboygan, WI
September 12, 1998	Onalaska, WI
September 19, 1998	Appleton, WI
October 17, 1998	Redgranite, WI
November 01, 1998	Kaukauna, WI
November 07, 1998	Menomonie, WI
November 07, 1998	Onalaska, WI
November 18, 1998	Sheboygan, WI
December 19, 1998	Redgranite, WI
January 23, 1999	Appleton, WI
Monthly, 1st Sat.	Racine, WI
(except January, July & August)	
Monthly, 1st Sat.	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
Monthly, 1st Sat.	St. Paul, MN
Monthly, 2nd Thu.	Apple Valley, MN
Monthly, 2nd Sat.	Oak Creek, WI (MRAC)
Monthly, 2nd Sat.	Madison, WI Monthly,
2nd Sat.	Blaine, MN
Monthly, 3rd Tue.	Eden Prairie, MN
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Loves Park, IL
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Cottage Grove, MN
Monthly, 4th Sat.	Bloomington, MN
Monthly, Last Sat.	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
(except December)	
Monthly, Last Sat.	Tomahawk, WI
(January thru October only)	
Quarterly	Marshfield, WI
(Second Saturday every third month.)	
Quarterly	Eau Claire, WI
(Second Saturday Jan., Apr., & Oct.)	
plus annual summer hamfest.)	

Many Swapfests/Hamfests offer exam sessions. If not shown above contact the sponsoring club in the Swapfest column on page 2.

The FCC now requires applicants to show their ORIGINAL AMATEUR LICENSE to the VEC. A copy of your license must be attached to your FCC form 610. You will also be required to have a photo ID, or other acceptable identification.

GENERAL RULES
FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS:
 Be sure to check with sponsors in the event there are changes and/or errors in the dates or information given.
 Some examinations require filing an FCC Form 610 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. (Some VECs permit walk-ins. Check with sponsor.)
 To register, you must first secure a copy of the current FCC Form 610 and fill it out completely (AND CORRECTLY). Get your form from an FCC Field Office, the ARRL. Send a 32c/ SASE if you request one from the ARRL. In most cases, forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.
 ARRL/VEC examinations require a check for \$6.35 payable to "ARRL/VEC".
 The FCC now requires applicants to show their ORIGINAL AMATEUR LICENSE or CSCE to the VEC. You must also have two good copies of your license or CSCE. A copy of your license or CSCE must be attached to your FCC form 610 and most VEC want a copy for their records. You will also be required to have a photo ID, or other acceptable identification.
 Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only.
 Additional information is given below.

For those with internet access, a listing of exam sessions is available from:
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml>
 By checking this page, a person can find out registered VE sessions anywhere in US and some overseas. You can search by country, state or zip code. The listing is not specific to any particular VEC, it is a master database. (Thanks to KB9EQI for information.)

MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB (MRAC/VEC)
SECOND SATURDAY - OAK CREEK, WI
LAST SATURDAY - MILWAUKEE, WI
SECOND SATURDAY DATE: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Wauwatosa Savings Bank, 6560 S. 27th St., Oak Creek, WI.
LAST SATURDAY DATES: (except December): 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Amateur Electronic Supply (AES), 5710 W. Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee, WI. Note: For Additional Information: Call (414) 466-HAMS (Answering Machine).
 Bring along your ORIGINAL license, CSCE (if any) and one (1) good quality photocopy of each, plus two forms of identification, such a driver's license, etc. Also required is \$6.35 for the exam fee. WALK-INS are welcome. To register in advance, use a post card: Print the grade of license you are applying for, your name, address, and telephone number. Send the card to MRAC/VEC, Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club, PO Box 25707, Milwaukee, WI 53225.

BADGER EXAMINERS (BE) - MILWAUKEE
 Badger Examiners group now testing at AES (Amateur Electronic Supply) at 6th and Good Hope, every third Saturday MORNING. Exam times are not 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at the old Sterman Printing shop, just 300 feet west of the AES store. Novice to Extra are offered, and all test materials are provided, fee is \$6.35, and bring your original license, or CSCE if needed. Also available are Commercial license exams GROU (General Radiotelephone license), GMDSS, Telegraph, Etc. Fee is \$35.00. For more information call Gary Sharbuno, WI9M at (414) 355-0237.

MADISON, WI
 VE exams are held in Madison every second Saturday morning of the month at 8 a.m. They are held at the operations building of the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District at 1610 Moorland Rd. To get there take the Beltline (Hwy 12 & 18) to South Towne Drive. Go south 8/10 mile till South Towne Drive makes a bend and becomes Moorland Rd. and enter at gate.
 You should bring a picture ID, your original licence and a copy of your licence. For exams beyond the novice tests, bring a check for \$6.35, made out to the ARRL/VEC. If the special 610 form with the medical exemption is required, contact me beforehand to obtain one. No appointments are necessary to take exams. For further questions, please leave a message on the mailbox or phone me at (608) 832-6631.
 Mark Jenks, NZ9B

RACINE, WISCONSIN - ARRL/VEC
 Monthly - first Saturday, except January, July, and August.
 Monthly exams are given 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Avenue, Racine. Walk-ins are permitted.
 Talk in on 147.87/27. Inquiries and registrations should be directed to Robert N. Jensen, W0WLN, 5616 Cambridge lane #6, Racine, WI. Telephone (414) 886-8551.

TOMAHAWK, WI
 Last Saturday of every month. Jan. thru Oct.
 Tomahawk Volunteer Examiners (ARRL/VEC). Tomahawk, WI. No preregistration required, but

appointment would be appreciated. Registration at 8:30 a.m. and testings starts at 9:00 a.m. For location or other information, inquire on 145.43 MHz. repeater or contact: Terry Collins, KB9AUP, W6564 Highway 8, Tomahawk, WI 54487. Telephone (715) 453-4633.

APPLETON, WI - ARRL/VEC
MANITOWOC, WI (HAMFEST)
KAUKAUNA, WI (HAMFEST)
 Conducted by the Fox Cities ARC VE team. All test sessions in Appleton are held at James Madison Jr. High, 2020 S. Carpenter Street. Testing starting at 8 a.m. For Appleton information, contact George R. Croy, W9MDP, 2113 Twin Willows Drive, Appleton, WI 54914. (920) 730-0967. For Manitowoc or Kaukauna information, contact Larry Siebers, KD9IA (920) 759-1167.

STEVENS POINT, WI (ARRL/VE)
 Held in room 107, of the UWSP Science Building, on the corner of Fourth and Reserve Streets in Stevens Point. Contact Joe Larson, N9JW evenings at (715) 344-1182.

PEWAUKEE, WI
 Kettle Moraine Exam Team. Held at the Pewaukee WCTC Campus Science Building, Room S101. 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Contact Al Johnson, AA7CS. (414) 568-0836. 103357.3222@COMPUSERV.COM

OSHKOSH (OMRO)
 The Oshkosh VE Team will administer Amateur Radio exams monthly on the first Saturday. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and exams will be given from 9 a.m. until noon at the Omro Community Center, 130 W. Larrabee, Omro, WI. Walk-ins welcomed. Bring a good quality photocopy of your original license and any other necessary documents such as a CSCE, etc. The first session will be through W5YI/VEC, and then sessions will alternate between ARRL/VEC and W5YI/VEC. The exam fee is \$6.35. For more information, please call Dick Lemme, K9FA, at (920) 235-0987, e-mail lemme@vbe.com, or write Dick at 826 Jefferson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

EAU CLAIRE
 The Eau Claire ARC will hold exam sessions on the second Saturday in the months of January, April, and October, as well as on the date of their annual hamfest during the summer. For further information contact: Carl F. Searing, W9NW, 1129 Mc Kinley Road, Eau Claire, WI 54703-2219. (715) 834-1303.

REDGRANITE, WI (W5YI/VEC)
 The Radio Amateurs of Wisconsin (RAW) will be holding test sessions at the Civic Center in Redgranite, 202 Pine River Road, one block from Highway 21. Turn north by Mosier's Sporting GoodsR store. Registration at 9:00 a.m. Bring two forms of identification, \$6.35 per test, two copies of all original documents, CSCE's, Licenses, etc. along with original documents. For further information, contact: Mark Miller, N9WT, (920) 231-1662 or Mike O'Connor, K9II (920) 231-7093.

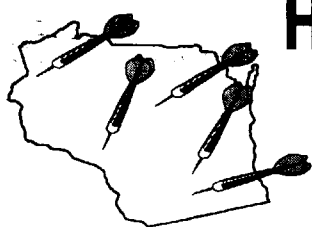
MENOMONIE, WI
 The Menomonie, WI VE team will conduct its 1998 exams on Saturday, March 28, 1998 and Saturday November 7, 1998. At UW-Stout Communication Center, 820 South Broadway, Menomonie, WI. Walk-ins only, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Contact: Jim Ley, NX9F, (715) 232-1397 (W) or (715) 235-3998 (H).

WISCONSIN DELLS, WI
 Wisconsin Dells City Hall, City Council Chambers. 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Contact: K9WD, (608) 254-2895.

HUDSON, WI
 Testing is held at the St. Croix County emergency government Center on Carmichael road in Hudson, WI. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and testing begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. Contact: Greg Miller, KB9JHL, 503 4th St., Hudson, WI 54016. (715) 386-9857.

MARSHFIELD, WI (ARRL/VEC)
 Sponsored by the Marshfield Area ARS. Held at St. Joseph Hospital, 611 St. Joseph Ave., in the 1 West classroom located adjacent to the Westwood Cafeteria on the main floor of the hospital. Use the main entrance or any other entrance and follow the signs to the cafeteria. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. with testing starting at 9:00 a.m. Talk in on the 147.18 Marshfield repeater. Walk-ins welcome. Contact: Walter Friant, WB0KIN, 2310 Wallonie Drive, Marshfield, WI 54449 (715) 387-3870.

SHEBOYGAN, WI
 Wednesday dates: Registration 1830 hrs, testing 1900 hrs.
 Saturday dates: Registration 0830 hrs, testing 0900 hrs.
 Testing site is: Red Cross/Boy Scout Office Building (lower level), 2032 Erie Ave., Sheboygan, WI.
 Test site has limited handicap accessibility. Walk-ins are OK but preregistration would be appreciated. Test fee is \$6.35. Make checks payable to SCARC VE Testing. All class tests administered. Contact: Art Pahr, K9XJ, (920) 876-2370. e-mail <k9xj@excel.net>



HERE and THERE

Sesquicentennial special event stations planned

Two Wisconsin clubs will be operating special event stations on different dates in May, 1998, the month Wisconsin joined the Union in 1848. A third operation may also be on the air.

The Wisconsin Valley Radio Association of Wausau, will operate from the 45/90 location, where the 90th meridian and the 45th parallel intersect. The call will be W 9 W.

The Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club will operate a station from Madison, with a call yet to be determined. Guest operators will be welcome. Details will follow.

Members of Dane County ARES are discussing the possibility of operating a third station, this one at Belmont, where the state capitol was first located. Belmont is in LaFayette County.

Badger State Smoke Signals and the real Amateur Radio publications will carry full details (dates, times, and frequencies) in March or April.

If your club or group is also planning a special event station for the celebration, please tell BSSS by email or snail mail. The email address is:

smokesigs@baraboo.com

K9ZZ



Ronnie Milsap, WB4KCG, is HamVention speaker

Country music legend Ronnie Milsap, WB4KCG, will be the 1998 Dayton Hamvention banquet speaker. This year's Hamvention is May 15, 16, and 17, and the banquet will be the evening of May 16. Milsap also will serve as the evening's entertainment.

Blind since birth, Milsap discovered a connection to music while attending the North Carolina State School for the Blind. He learned to play piano, guitar, clarinet, violin and cello, and developed his vocal talents.

Milsap began performing professionally in the 1960s and has won numerous awards, including Country Music Association Entertainer of the Year and Male Vocalist of the Year (1974, 1976 and 1977) and CMA Album of the Year (1976, 1978 and 1986). In 1983, the Academy of Country Music voted Milsap Best Male Vocalist. He won Song of the Year in 1986 for *Lost in the Fifties Tonight*. He also received the only gold Braille album ever awarded. Today, Milsap can be seen regularly at The Ronnie Milsap Theater in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The Hamvention 1998 banquet will be held at the Nutter Center at Wright State University in Fairborn, Ohio. The Nutter Center has free parking for banquet attendees, no steps, and handicapped access. The banquet also will feature the awards presentation for Amateur of the Year, Technical Excellence, and Special Achievement.

Banquet tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 (if available) the day of the banquet. Seating is limited. Tickets for the concert only are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, and are available by fax, mail, at the Hara Arena box office or at the Nutter Center box office. There's a \$3 charge for concert parking.

For more information, visit <http://www.hamvention.org/>

The ARRL Letter, 1/9/98

AES changes hands

Amateur Electronic Supply has changed hands, effective January 1, 1998. The new owner is Amateur Electronic Supply LLC, headed by Phil Majerus, a prominent Wisconsin businessman. Now in its 41st year, AES was founded in 1957 by Terry Sterman, W9DIA, who became interested in ham radio by working in his dad's electronics shop and went on to have a substantial impact on the ham radio marketplace. The retailer's current management team and most employees will remain in place, and a spokesman said it's "business as usual."

AES expects to have its latest Amateur Radio products catalog available at the Dayton Hamvention in mid-May. The company, headquartered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, has branches in Ohio, Florida, and Nevada.

The ARRL Letter, 1/9/98

N9GHZ honored in Abby

Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ, Abbotsford, was one of three individuals honored by being named to the "Wall of Fame" by the School District of Abbotsford on October 17, 1987. The three were recognized for outstanding efforts on behalf of the district. Presentation were made as part of a homecoming pep assembly and homecoming week.

The first "Outstanding Alumni" Award was presented to Mike. He is a 1970s graduate of Abbotsford High School. He is employed by the Marshfield Clinic as a computer specialist. Mike spends his nights in the Clinic and many of his days contributing to the efforts at the High School.

Mike works in the Junior and Senior High Schools helping with various science projects, and is involved with the Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club. He has used his contacts to get Abbotsford High School and Junior High School involved with various projects from NASA.

Mike serves as a consulting member to the district's Technology Committee and the Strategic Focus Committee. He has been on various special committees, such as the School to Work Planning Committee for the Career Fair.

Mike has been tireless in his efforts. In addition to the above, he gives many hours to the Christmas Parade and has played a significant role in the videotaping of the parade. He has also helped to set up special video programs to the nursing homes of the area, and is a person constantly giving back to his community.

Abbotsford Tribune-Phonograph, 10/29/87

Madison ham helps cell-tel

A story in the January 14, 1998 issue of *the Capital Times* says Ralph Henes (K9VDD) "rescued" a cellular telephone company by letting them site a tower at his home.

Henes had his own amateur tower at his west side location. Airadigm Communications needed a cell tower in that area, but neighbors bitched about how a cell tower would "prove an eyesore and hurt property values" (both standard-issue complaints, and both of which are wrong).

So, it was K9VDD to the rescue. The cell company will replace Henes' tower and erect its own at Henes' address on Midvale Boulevard. Henes will be able to use the tower, and it will serve the cell company as well.

"People were already used to seeing the tower next to the Henes home so there wasn't much objection to the new proposal," said Plan Commission Chairwoman Caryl Terrell, according to the newspaper.

Perhaps this could be at least a partial solution to the current mess about towers created by the cell companies.

Portions excerpted from *The Capital Times*

Have you considered becoming an ARRL Volunteer Examiner? If you are 18 or older, and are presently a General, Advanced, or Extra class licensee, the ARRL/VEC would be glad to hear from you. Feel free to contact the ARRL/VEC at (800) 927-7683 and request our Prospective VE Packet. Very 73 to all my friends in Wisconsin!

Bart Jahnke, W9JJ/1 • ARRL/VEC Manager



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Zed zed zed zed zed

If your editor gets into Milwaukee, and if one particular amateur works me on 2 meter FM, it could get a little confusing. Greg Wolfe has received his new vanity call: K9ZZZ.

K9ZZ, editor

ARRL Instructor of the Year nominations open

Nominations are due to ARRL Section Managers by February 28, 1998 for the ARRL Instructor of the Year awards.

Each year, the ARRL Board of Directors selects recipients for each of four award categories. The ARRL Herb S. Brier (W9AD) Instructor of the Year Award is presented to an unpaid volunteer instructor. The ARRL Professional Educator of the Year Award is presented to a paid, professional, state-certified teacher. The ARRL Professional Instructor of the Year Award is presented to a paid instructor who is not state-certified. The ARRL Excellence in Recruiting Award is presented to an individual who recruits more than teaches.

Section Managers forward nominations to the Educational Activities Department at ARRL, and EAD will send details to nominees about how to compete for the awards. See page 12 in any QST for your Section Manager's name and address. (Wisconsin's Section Manager is Roy Pedersen, K9FHI, 510 Park Street, Juneau, WI 53039.) More information and nominating forms can be found on the ARRLWeb at <http://www.arrl.org/ead/award/>. For further information, e-mail ead@arrl.org.

The ARRL Letter, 1/16/98

FCC "Internet fee" notice is old news

The FCC's trying to staunch a flow of e-mail concerning a non-existent issue. Several individuals, including some hams, have circulated or posted "warnings" on the Internet concerning the possibility that telephone companies would be permitted to charge by the minute for Internet access. Some recipients of this "warning" were advised that the telephone companies were trying to slip this past the public before users realized what was happening. The "warning" mentioned a February 1998 date to send comments to the FCC. In short, this is old news. The FCC did issue a Notice of Inquiry on this topic in late 1996 (with a reply comment deadline in February 1997), but it subsequently rejected the idea. The FCC now has posted a message to this effect on its Web site (see http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common_Carrier/Factsheets/ispfact.html): "There is no open comment period in this proceeding. If you have recently seen a message on the Internet stating that in response to a request from local telephone companies, the FCC is requesting comments to isp@fcc.gov by February 1998, be aware that this information is inaccurate."

The ARRL Letter, 1/16/98

RFI reflector established

An Internet reflector focusing on the causes and cures of Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) has been established. It will be moderated by Tim Duffy, K3LR. Issues relating to RFI and TVI are welcome. Discussions should be aimed at providing technical information to assist amateurs in resolving interference problems. To subscribe, send an e-mail message to rfl-request@contesting.com. The message body should include only the word "subscribe." To post a message to the group, send it to rfl@contesting.com. A digest form

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Web: <http://www.execpc.com/~mjadams/SEWFARS.html>

RADIO CRUISE '98

Racine Megacycle Club offers another Caribbean cruise

Because of the great response Cruise Commanders in Racine had from area hams to the Southern Caribbean cruise last November, we will be offering another fall cruise to Amateur Radio operators. Gather your hand held radios, snorkeling equipment, and dancin' feet and enjoy the Big Band sounds of the Tommy Dorsey Orchestra on Holland America's *Westerdam* November 14-21. The ship will be sailing from Ft. Lauderdale and traveling to Nassau, San Juan, St. John/St. Thomas, Half Moon Cay (a private island), and returning to Ft. Lauderdale. Holland America gave us 50% off rates on the cruise portion and we anticipate that we will sell this space quickly.

It's open to all! If you or your radio club members would like to participate in this cruise, contact Cheryl Miller, WS9P (phone/fax 414-632-2985 or cgjmill@wi.net). By mid-February this space will be offered to the general public.

We will not be asking permission to operate on board ship, since it's likely we'll create interference with the *Westerdam's* equipment. The great news is that you will be visiting American territories and will have opportunities to operate once you're on each island. Cruise Commanders will be happy to request a tour of radio operations for interested hams.

Thank you to *Badger State Smoke Signals* for the wonderful lay-out of the story about last year's fall cruise. It was exciting to see friends having such a wonderful experience.

Sometimes Amateur Radio is more than making long, distant contacts; it's having the opportunity to know your "ham" friends in a new way. We hope we can offer that to you. Bon Voyage!

of this list also is available. You will receive one message per day around midday (Eastern Time) that contains the previous day's messages. To subscribe to the digest version, send a message to rfl-digest-request@contesting.com and put only the word "subscribe" in the message body. You do not need to be subscribed to both reflectors. Individuals subscribed to the digest list still may post to the RFI list address. For more information, contact Duffy at k3lr@contesting.com.

--Tim Duffy, K3LR

The ARRL Letter, 1/16/98

Badgerland Amateur Television Society (B.A.T.S.) formalized

On Thursday January 20, 1998 the Badgerland Amateur Television Society met for its first formal organizational meeting. Club Bylaws were read, discussed and approved by the charter members present. Election of officers was held with the following results:

President - Jim Paul, N9LKY

Vice President - William H. Hommel III, KA9QFI

Secretary - Joe Imilkowski, W9CWD

Treasurer - Bill Klinkner, N9KXX

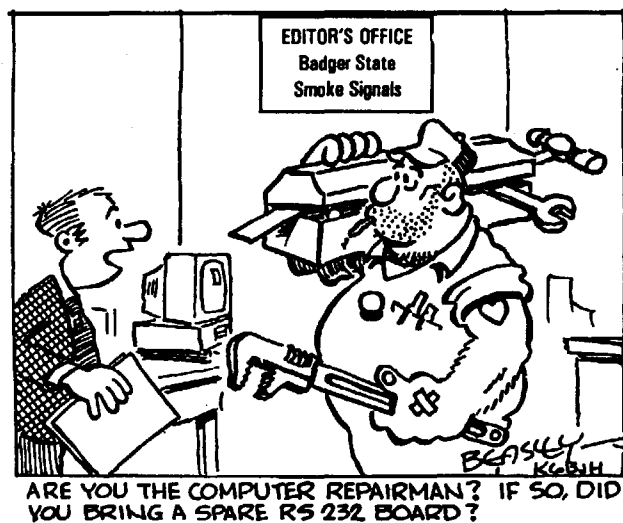
and Trustee - Tom Weeden, WJ9H.

Discussion centered on the work necessary to get a simple repeater on the air before the spring storm season to bring the weather radar from WJ9H in Madison over the Baraboo Bluffs into Sauk County. Receive tests will be conducted using an existing antenna at the tower site.

BATS now has a web page at www.shopstop.net/BATS. Information on joining the mailing list that serves as the primary means of communication to the membership can be found on the web page. If you would like to become a BATS member, or just want to support ATV in the area, send your name,

On the Lighter Side

By Bob Beasley, K6BJH



address, call, phone number, and email address along with \$20 for the first year dues to: BATS; c/o Bill Klinkner, N9KXX; 1800 North St.; Prairie du Sac; 53578. Your help and support will be greatly appreciated.

Jim Paul, N9LKY

It's Thomas for Wolf aboard Mir

The last US astronaut to serve on Mir, Australian-born Andy Thomas, KD5CHF/VK5MIR, has replaced astronaut David Wolf, KC5VPF, aboard Mir. Wolf has lived on Mir since late September. The Australian government issued Thomas a reciprocal license with a special event call sign for his use while aboard Mir. Thomas is from Adelaide, South Australia (VK5). It's not yet known how active Thomas will be on ham radio.

Thomas blasted off from Kennedy Space Center Thursday, January 22, aboard the shuttle Endeavor. The shuttle was scheduled to dock with Mir on Saturday, January 24.

Two new Russian crew members, cosmonauts Talgat Musabayev, R03FT, and Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB (ex-RV3DB and R4MIR), are set to arrive in late January in the first crew change of the year. French astronaut Leopold Eyharts will arrive with the new crew members to work aboard Mir for three weeks before returning to earth with Anatoly Solovoyov and Pavel Vinogradov, the previous Mir Russian contingent.

Thomas, 46, will work aboard Mir until June, when the US shuttle Discovery will dock with Mir for the final time, rounding out the Russian-US cooperative mission. Thomas prepared for his four-month tour of duty on the space outpost by taking along several dozen books, cassettes and CDs, and computer programs. Among his selections was Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*.

--thanks to Roy Neal, K6DUE

The ARRL Letter, 1/24/98

Patty Loveless, KD4WUJ, tops Grammy nominations

Having wowed the critics with her album *Long Stretch of Lonesome*, Patty Loveless, KD4WUJ, was rewarded with three Grammy nominations. In addition to best album, she was nominated for best female country vocal performance for "The Trouble With The Truth" and best country vocal collaboration for "You Don't Seem to Miss Me" with the legendary George Jones. Loveless' three nominations make her country music's leading Grammy contender. The Grammys will be awarded February 25.

The ARRL Letter, 1/24/98

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FEBRUARY 1998

The Computer Corner

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR

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No. 51: Critical File Backups for Win95, Part 3

Here we are with the last batch file for your quick backup. This one backs up several critical files found in your WINDOWS subdirectory. Here it is, short and sweet:

```
echo off
rem MYWINBAK.BAT (type the date you created this file in here)
cd c:\windows
echo Copying SYSTEM.DAT, DAO and INI
attrib -s -r -h system.*
copy system.* e:\backups\win
attrib +s +r +h system.dat
attrib +s +r +h system.da0
pause
echo Copying USER.DAT and DAO
attrib -s -r -h user.*
copy user.* e:\backups\win
attrib +s +r +h user.dat
attrib +s +r +h user.da0
pause
echo Copying this batch file
copy c:\mywinbak.bat e:\backups\win
echo All done backing up with MYWINBAK!
```

The cd c:\windows moves you to the windows subdirectory. The attrib command removes the system, read only and hidden attributes from those that have them. All SYSTEM.* files are then copied to the backup subdirectory, and then the attributes of those that were changed are restored. The same process is repeated with all USER.* files - removing the attributes, copying the files and restoring the attributes. Finally, the batch file itself is backed up and the entire process is complete.

While I have selected to copy these windows subdirectory backup files to my drive e: in the backups\win subdirectory, your destination might be different. For example, if you have a single C: partition, replace all instances of e:\backups\win in the batch file with c:\backups\win. Again, be sure that the subdirectory exists before running the batch file the first time.

Those of you who are power users might have written these batch files differently, using a different ploy with regard to hidden and system files, or even using XCOPY in place of COPY to create the subdirectories in case they didn't exist previously. However, I am a great believer in the KISS principle (Keep It Simple, Stupid), and these versions do the job for me. I also like splitting the task into the three files I have shown you in this series - one for backing up the registry, one for critical files found in the root directory and one for those found in the windows subdirectory. It keeps things neat and in order.

Now that you have all these backups, what are you going to do with them besides perusing them when trying to figure out what they are? Well, let me give you a (very) short course in what several of these files are.

In the first of these three articles, you created REGBAK.REG. This file is actually a complete backup of two files, SYSTEM.DAT and USER.DAT. It is readable with a text editor. You can double click it while in windows (from the Explorer), and your current SYSTEM.DAT and USER.DAT files will be updated to reflect what is in REGBAK.REG. DON'T DO THIS unless you are having trouble and have exhausted all other avenues. Keep it as a learning tool and as a backup of last resort. You can also practice editing it with the Registry Editor (REGEDIT.EXE) later, when you get good at this stuff (read that as no longer dangerous).

The second article backed up a number of miscellaneous files, including DOS files. For example, SYSTEM.IST is created immediately after successful completion of the original Win95 setup procedure. It becomes out of date very soon, but may be of some use in a real emergency. Again, you may get the "File not found" message with some of these, but don't worry about it. Absence or presence of some of these files depends on whether you upgraded from Windows 3.1, or bought a machine with a dealer-installed copy of Win95 on it.

This third article's batch file created the most useful backups, those of the most critical files. The USER.DAT file contains user-specific data (you), and USER.DA0 is a backup of it that Windows itself makes when it opens successfully. Indeed, if Win95 fails to open successfully,

it may copy the file USER.DA0 to USER.DAT automatically. By backing these two up, you have two working copies of USER information that were created when Win95 opened successfully. In a real emergency, you can always overwrite USER.DAT with one of your backups, by hand.

Similarly, SYSTEM.DAT contains system specific data (data about the hardware and software on your machine), while SYSTEM.DA0 is an automatic Windows-made backup immediately after it opened successfully the last time. Again, if something fails, Win95 may itself copy the DA0 file to the DAT file, thus restoring your system to happiness. And, again, in a dire emergency, you can hand copy one of the backups you made, if Windows fails to restore things to health. In case of trouble that Windows itself cannot hurdle, copy your thoughtfully made DA0 file from the BACKUPS subdirectory to the Windows subdirectory and try to start Windows again. This time, when it tries to copy the backup DA0 file to the DAT file, it will be using a good version - the one you saved during your astute backup procedure. If it works, you can pat yourself on the back!

Are all these backups paranoia? I don't think so. I think they are a couple of megabytes of disk space well spent. Remember that gremlin that lives in every computer? If you do nothing to insure your safety, he is sure to zap you. However, if you take reasonable steps to back things up, he will leave you alone.

That's it. Learn all you can. Back up often. Keep that gremlin cussing cause he can't zap you today. Happy computing!

Reprinted, by permission, from the ORC Newsletter, Ozaukee Radio Club, 101 E. Clay Street, Saukville, Wisconsin 53080-1903 (Skip Douglas, KA9DDN, Editor).

Tally Ho!

Friday January 2, 1998 - It could be cold or snow, but this evening's Racine Megacycle Club fox hunt was just mild and windy instead. The hunt teams assembled at Regency Mall, Highways 11 and 31, in Racine. There were three hidden transmitters, all in vehicles.

The First one was located in the Village of Sturtevant, Wisconsin. Hidden just South of Highway 11 in a new subdivision, it was found by all hunt teams within fifteen minutes.

The second transmitter was located in Kenosha County alongside Interstate 94 inside a trailer park. The winding streets delayed the hunters for a few milliseconds. All of the hunt teams found the transmitter within 35 minutes from the start of the hunt.

The Third transmitter was tucked inside a school yard. You had to keep making a tighter circle around the building to finally get to the transmitter. All hunt teams found the last transmitter, with the last hunt team finding it as the end of the hunt was reached one and a half hours after the start.

The pizza after the hunt was again a time to discuss strategies and equipment for the next fox hunt.

First place team this month was Joe, KB9HSJ, and Rob, KF9ZT.

The Racine Megacycle Club has the hidden transmitter hunts every four weeks. Check the *Badger State Smoke Signals* for details.

Dave, WB9USI

Attend the 4th annual



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Chat with or Join Local Organizations: Clubs • Repeater Groups • MARS • CAP

License Exams: The M.A.R.C. Volunteer Examiner Team will be testing on Saturday, April 4th from 9:00 A.M. until noon. If you would like to test, bring a photo copy of your original license or C.S.C.E. (if any), two forms of I.D. (one photo I.D.) & \$6.25 for the testing fee.

Gordon West Show & other Forums: On Saturday, April 4th, Gordon West, WB6NOA, will present his third action-packed show for us. Topics will include GPS with built-in maps-how they apply to Ham radio, Ham Satellite updates and Weak Signal Communications on 6 meters & up. In addition, a series of short forums will be presented throughout SUPERFest by reps from several of the participating manufacturers.

Specials/Closeouts • Free Coffee & Popcorn, 25¢ Sodas • Over 100 Great Prizes with Drawings every 1/2 hour • KENWOOD A/V Rack System Grand Prize! (\$1400 Value!)

You must sign-up for the prize drawings in the store, during SUPERFest and must be present to win. The Grand Prize drawing will be at 3:00 P.M. on Saturday and you need not be present to win - we'll call the winner right away.

If you can't attend - Call during SUPERFest hours to check on any Specials, Closeouts, etc. that may be going on during this event.

Check for forums and other SUPERFest updates on our or Web site: www.aesham.com

Friday
April 3rd
2 PM to 7 PM

Saturday
April 4th
9 AM to 3:30 PM

ANNOUNCING



The 1998 Wisconsin QSO Party

1800Z March 15 - 0100Z March 16, 1998
(Noon until 7 p.m. CST Sunday, March 15, 1998)



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SPONSOR'S COMMENTS

The 1998 Wisconsin QSO Party (WQP) is scheduled to begin at 12 noon CST (1800Z) SUNDAY MARCH 15, 1998, and will run till 7 PM (0100Z March 16). The annual 7 hour event is sponsored by the West Allis Radio Amateur Club (WARAC). WQP is open to all hams, regardless of class or location. WQP is also an opportunity to work some of the "rare" Wisconsin counties, due to the many mobiles that take to Wisconsin highways, to activate these counties, in their efforts to operate from as many counties as they can during the 7 hours.

The entry/rules form is printed here, along with a suggested list of abbreviations. OR, we also have the same information listed on the world wide web, for those who have access to that system. It is under WA9POV home page, address:

<http://www.execpc.com/WARAC>

For those who do not have access to any of the above, you can still send a request for forms/information to our post office box: WARAC WQP, P.O. Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201. We have log sheets for WQP for those that use paper logging - send a request to our post office box. Remember, all entry forms need to be postmarked by March 31, 1998 to be entered in this year's WQP. ALL ENTRIES need to be mailed to our post office box.

Again this year WARAC will be issuing THE TOP AWARD for the HIGHEST SINGLE OPERATOR scores from within Wisconsin and also from an entry outside of Wisconsin. It will include a plaque and a taste of Wisconsin.

1998 CHANGES

New for 98 WQP is a change in the number of QSOs needed to qualify for the 500 point bonus. We have reduced the number to 12 per county to qualify for the 500 point bonus. We hope this will encourage more activity from mobile stations, as it should enable them to visit more counties during WQP. We have also added a statement about county line operation - no mobile can sit on a County line and operate. Mobiles must be within the county they operate from.

We also have added the capability of downloading the "official" WQP logging software program, written by Glen WA1UJU, at our website. We hope this will encourage use of this fine program by participants (and make my job a whole lot smoother when checking entries). I should mention that use of the WA1UJU program is not mandatory, and is written for Wisconsin stations ONLY. You may use another method for logging. We are just trying to make operating as simple as possible, so you can have fun.

We also want to suggest that everyone try and include a picture of their

operation. And for those so inclined, maybe a short article would be nice. Smoke Signals has space available for both in their monthly issues. Either send them to Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, BSSS Editor, 412 1/2 Ash Street, Baraboo, WI 53913 OR to our post office box. WARAC encourages as much publicity as we can get. Smoke Signals will remain our OFFICIAL publication for WQP. As usual, the complete results will be printed in

Smoke Signals, which will be mailed FREE to all entrants.

Do not forget that WQP is also an opportunity to work the 72 Wisconsin counties needed for you to qualify for the WARAC sponsored WAWC (Worked All Wisconsin Counties) AWARD.

We are known nationwide as one of the best QSO parties going. The annual Wisconsin QSO Party is a seven-hour-long "sprint." Serious con-

testors, casual operators, and everyone in between, will find fun in this one. It's open to hams of all license classes and it offers those interested in getting the "feel" of contesting an enjoyable way to get their feet wet. Even those amateurs who don't usually operate in contests will find fun here, especially if they are in one of the more rare Wisconsin counties. If you are in the

Kindly turn the page

1998 WISCONSIN QSO PARTY RULES

- DATE/TIME:** 1800Z MARCH 15 - 0100Z MARCH 16, 1998
- MODES:** CW and Phone. All stations may be worked once per mode on each band.
In addition, mobiles may be worked once per mode per Wisconsin county that they operate from.
MOBILES CANNOT SIT ON A COUNTY LINE.
- ENTRY CLASSES:**
- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Single Operator Fixed | Multi Operator Fixed | Multi Xmtr/Multi Op Fixed |
| Single Operator Mobile | Multi Operator Mobile | Multi Xmtr/Multi Op Mobile |
| Single Operator Novice | Multi Operator Novice | Multi Xmtr/Multi Op Novice |
| Single Operator Tech | Multi Operator Tech | Multi Xmtr/Multi Op Tech |
- EXCHANGE:** Wisconsin stations send county.
Non-Wisconsin stations send state or province or country.
- FREQUENCIES:** CW: 3550, 3705, 7050, 7125, 14050, 15M CW, 10M CW, 6M CW, 2M CW ** Suggested **
Phone: 3890, 7230, 14290, 21350, 28400, 6M SSB & FM, 2M SSB & FM Others may be used
- SCORING:** Phone contacts count 1 QSO Point; CW contacts count 2 QSO Points. No Repeater QSOs.
WISCONSIN STATIONS: Multiply the sum of QSO points by the sum of Wisconsin counties (max. 72), plus states (max. 50) plus Canadian provinces (max. 13) worked. Note: DX countries worked count for QSO points but not as multipliers.
NON-WISCONSIN STATIONS: Multiply the sum of QSO points by the number of Wisconsin counties worked (max. 72).
- BONUS:** WISCONSIN MOBILES/PORTABLES: Add 500 bonus points for each county that you operate from, outside your home county, with a minimum of 12 QSOs per county to qualify.
- LOGS:** Entries must contain a log consisting of: Time (GMT), call, band, state/province, Wisconsin county, mode and a complete Score Summary including YOUR name, address and call. Circle new multipliers as worked. Logs containing more than 200 QSOs must be accompanied by a dupe sheet (separate dupe sheet for each mode). Mobile entries must indicate county changes in log.

Entries must be postmarked by March 31, 1998 and sent to:

WISCONSIN QSO PARTY
WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB
P. O. BOX 1072
MILWAUKEE, WI 53201

- AWARDS:**
- NON-WISCONSIN: Awards will be presented to the following:
- Highest single operator score in the QSO Party.
 - Highest single operator score in each single operator category in each state/province.
- WISCONSIN: Awards will be presented to the following:
- Highest single operator score in the QSO Party.
 - 10 highest single operator scores in each entry class.
 - Highest multi-operator score in each entry class.
 - Highest aggregate club score (club member stations to be located within 50 miles of the club, except for mobiles).

IT'S TIME TO PARTY!

MULTIPLIER LIST

WISCONSIN STATIONS USE ALL • OUT OF STATE STATIONS USE WISCONSIN COUNTIES

WISCONSIN COUNTIES				STATES			CANADIAN PROVINCES
ADAMS	FLORENCE	MARATHON	RUSK	ALABAMA	LOUISIANA	OHIO	ALBERTA
ASHLAND	FOND DU LAC	MARINETTE	SAUK	ALASKA	MARYLAND (D.C.)	OKLAHOMA	BRITISH COLUMBIA
BARRON	FOREST	MARQUETTE	SAWYER	ARIZONA	MASSACHUSETTS	OREGON	LABRADOR
BAYFIELD	GRANT	MENOMINEE	SHAWANO	ARKANSAS	MAINE	PENNSYLVANIA	MANITOBA
BROWN	GREEN	MILWAUKEE	SHEBOYGAN	CALIFORNIA	MICHIGAN	RHODE ISLAND	NEW BRUNSWICK
BUFFALO	GREEN LAKE	MONROE	ST. CROIX	COLORADO	MINNESOTA	SOUTH CAROLINA	NEWFOUNDLAND
BURNETT	IOWA	OCONTO	TAYLOR	CONNECTICUT	MISSISSIPPI	SOUTH DAKOTA	NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
CALUMET	IRON	ONEIDA	TREMPEALEAU	DELAWARE	MISSOURI	TENNESSEE	NOVA SCOTIA
CHIPPEWA	JACKSON	OUTAGAMIE	VERNON	FLORIDA	MONTANA	TEXAS	ONTARIO
CLARK	JEFFERSON	OZAUKEE	VILAS	GEORGIA	NEBRASKA	UTAH	PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
COLUMBIA	JUNEAU	PEPIN	WALWORTH	HAWAII	NEVADA	VERMONT	QUEBEC
CRAWFORD	KENOSHA	PIERCE	WASHBURN	IOWA	NEW HAMPSHIRE	VIRGINIA	SASKATCHEWAN
DANE	KEWAUNEE	POLK	WASHINGTON	IDAHO	NEW JERSEY	WASHINGTON	YUKON TERRITORY
DODGE	LA CROSSE	PORTAGE	WAUKESHA	ILLINOIS	NEW MEXICO	WEST VIRGINIA	
DOOR	LAFAYETTE	PRICE	WAUPACA	INDIANA	NEW YORK	WISCONSIN	
DOUGLAS	LANGLADE	RACINE	WAUSHARA	KANSAS	NORTH CAROLINA	WYOMING	
DUNN	LINCOLN	RICHLAND	WINNEBAGO	KENTUCKY	NORTH DAKOTA		
EAU CLAIRE	MANITOWOC	ROCK	WOOD				

1998 WISCONSIN QSO PARTY SCORE SUMMARY SHEET

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Province _____ Zip _____

Home WI County _____ Club Affiliation _____

ENTRY CLASS: ___ Single Op Fixed ___ Multi Op Fixed ___ Multi-Multi Fixed
 ___ Single Op Mobile ___ Multi Op Mobile ___ Multi-Multi Mobile
 ___ Single Op Novice ___ Multi Op Novice ___ Multi-Multi Novice
 ___ Single Op Tech ___ Multi Op Tech ___ Multi-Multi Tech

WI Counties Worked From _____

SCORING: CW QSOs _____ x 2 = _____ CW Points
 Phone QSOs _____ x 1 = _____ Phone Points
 Sum of CW + Phone Points = _____ QSO Points
 Number of Multipliers = _____ Multipliers
 Wis. Counties (Max. 72) _____
 States (Max. 50) _____
 Provinces (Max. 13) _____
 QSO Points x Multipliers = _____ Points
 Bonus Points = _____ Points
 Final Score = _____ Points

I have followed the WISCONSIN QSO PARTY RULES. (ALL OPERATORS must sign - CLEARLY - including callsign)

Signature(s) _____

Date _____

To qualify, entries must be postmarked by **March 31, 1998** and sent to: 1998 WISCONSIN QSO PARTY, WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, P. O. BOX 1072, MILWAUKEE, WI 53201. Entries may be disqualified if the QSO Party Rules are not followed. The decision of the Wisconsin QSO Party Rules Committee shall be final. Results will be published in *Badger State Smoke Signals* which will be sent to all entrants.

1998 Wisconsin QSO Party

Thanks for turning the page

"casual" operator category, pop in the contest for an hour or so. You might just enjoy it. You might also be surprised who you run across.

When operating, please listen for the weaker signals. They will probably be the mobile stations working hard to provide the rare counties OR the out-of-state stations on one of the higher freq bands. Wisconsin stations be sure to call CQ on the higher freq bands to enable the out-of-state stations to fully participate, BOTH phone and CW.

See you Sunday March 15, 1998!

For WARAC:

Lynn Tamblyn, K9KR
Chairman, WQP

ABOUT THE SPONSOR



The West Allis Radio Amateur Club sponsors the Wisconsin QSO Party annually in March, usually on the second Sunday. WARAC also sponsors the Mid-Winter Swapfest every January at the Waukesha County Expo Center. WARAC uses much of the proceeds from the swapfest for philanthropic purposes, including the funding of the WARAC Memorial Scholarships, (three, at \$1000.00 each) which are awarded through the Foundation for Amateur Radio, to Wisconsin resident Amateur Radio operators who plan to attend a school in Wisconsin, pursuing at least an Associate degree. Those seeking graduate degrees are also eligible. Announcements of the scholarships are published in the amateur media in January and February. To learn more about WARAC, write to the club, or see the WARAC Web page at:

<http://www.execpc.com/WARAC/warac.html>

Weather spotter classes announced

**SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN
COVERED BY THE MILWAUKEE/SULLIVAN
NWS COUNTY WARNING AREA**

These classes are not open to the general public, unless otherwise advertised in local newspapers. They are reserved for new and "seasoned" severe weather spotters. If you wish to become a severe weather spotter, send your request to Rusty Kapela (rusty.kapela@noaa.gov), Warning Coordination Meteorologist at WSFO MKX.



Feb 2 Milwaukee co. Milwaukee Red Cross Bldg. 7-815 pm
Mar 2 Green co. Brooklyn 7-9 pm
Mar 2 Dane co. Madison Red Cross Bldg. 7-9 pm
Mar 3 Green co. Monroe - Pleasant. View Complex - hwy 81
730-930 am, 7-9 pm
Mar 10 Dane co. Verona 7-9 pm
Mar 19 Sauk co. Baraboo - West Square Bldg. 10-12 am, 2-4 pm,
7-9 pm
Mar 21 Dane co. Madison WEM Bldg. 10-1130 am
Mar 24 Iowa co. Dodgeville - Sheriff Bldg. 2-4pm, 7-9 pm
Mar 25 Lafayette co. Darlington Courthouse 2-4pm, 7-9 pm
Mar 26 Dane co. Sun Prairie- City Bldg. 7-9 pm
Mar 26 Ozaukee co. Port Washington - Sheriff Bldg. 7-9 pm
Apr 14 Dodge co. Juneau - Admin Bldg. (Radio Club) 7-9 pm
Apr 15 Rock co. TBD Unknown locations attm 2-4 pm, 7-9 pm
Apr 16 Fond du Lac co. Fond du Lac Courthouse 7-9 pm
Apr 16 Fond du Lac co. Fond du Lac Courthouse(Public Works/HWY)
10-noon
Apr 21 Jefferson co. City of Jefferson - Courthouse Rm 205 7-9 pm
Apr 23 Fond du Lac co. Fond du Lac Courthouse 7-9 pm
Apr 24 Fond du Lac co. Fond du Lac Courthouse(Public Works/HWY)
10-noon
??? Marquette co. TBD
??? Columbia co. TBD
??? Washington co. TBD
??? Sheboygan co. TBD
??? Waukesha co. TBD
??? Walworth co. TBD
??? Racine co. TBD
??? Kenosha co. TBD

TBD- To be determined

WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN

Covered by the La Crosse NWS County Warning Area. Contact
Todd Shea, WCM, for additional information.

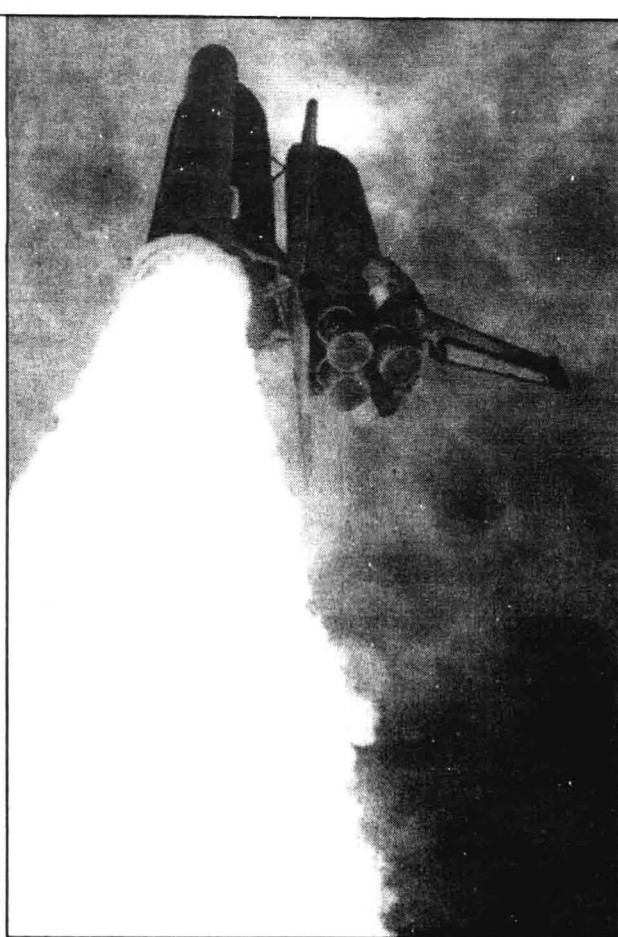
Mar 24 Buffalo co Alma, 7 pm
Mar 30 Juneau co Mauston 7 pm
Apr 14 Adams co Site Unknown
Apr 15 Grant co Fennimore, 7 pm
Apr 16 Clark co Loyal 7 pm

NORTHEAST WISCONSIN

Covered by the Green Bay NWS County Warning Area. Contact
Jeff Last, WCM, (jeff.last@noaa.gov) or local emergency managers for
additional details.

Mar 13 - 8 am Fox Valley Tech College, Appleton Open to Law
Enforcement Recruit Class only.
Mar 25 Calumet Co. Courthouse, Chilton Law enforcement and fire
dept's only. 10 am
Mar 25 Calumet Co. Courthouse, Chilton Contact emergency manager
for space availability. 7 pm
Apr 6 Outagamie Co. Courthouse, Appleton Contact emergency
manager for space availability. 6 pm
Apr 21 Marathon Co. Courthouse, Wausau Law enforcement and fire
dept's only. 4 pm
Apr 21 Marathon Co. Courthouse, Wausau Contact emergency
manager for space availability. 7 pm
Apr 27 Marathon Co Fire Department, Spencer Contact emergency
manager for space availability. 6:30 pm
Apr 28 Lincoln Co. Sara Community Center, Tomahawk Contact
emergency manager for space availability. 7 pm

Milwaukee Area Skywarn Association/Skip Voros, WD9HAS



The photo at left was taken by NASA on June 25, 1992, of the launch of STS-50. The low-angle perspective captures Columbia as it lifts off toward a 13-day mission on orbit. The orbiter carried five NASA astronauts and two scientists/payload specialists to support U.S. Microgravity Laboratory research.

**Is Windows 95 a
VIRUS?**
Find out in March BSSS.

**Also next month:
Wisconsin Amateur E-Mail
Address List**

Compiled by Dave Knaus, WA9POV
wa9pov@execpc.com

HAMRADIO
COMPUTERS
ELECTRONICS
**SEWFARS
SWAPFEST**

Southeastern Wisconsin FM Amateur Repeater Society Inc.
SEWFARS
Amateur Radio Club
146.820
444.125
TALK IN 146.820 - PL 127.3

SUNDAY
March 8, 1998
8 A.M. - 2 P.M.

SET-UP STARTS AT 6 A.M.
WAUKESHA COUNTY
EXPO CENTER
WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN

**ADMISSION: \$4.00 ADVANCE,
\$5.00 AT DOOR**
**RESERVED TABLES PER 4 FT.:
\$5.00**
ELECTRICAL OUTLET: \$5.00
AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS

Reservation deadline is February 23: ORDER EARLY!

Mail with S.A.S.E. Make check payable to SEWFARS, Inc.

Send to P. O. Box 102, Delafield, WI 53018

For information, phone (414) 358-1003 or (414) 574-0917, or email
mjadams@execpc.com

See our Web page: <http://www.execpc.com/~mjadams/SEWFARS.html>



**THE BARGAIN
MODE**
SSB
SELL SWAP BUY

OUR WANT ADS GET RESULTS

FOR SALE: 440 MHz repeater. System is currently on the air in Eau Claire. Contact Leroy, N9RSU, at (715) 836-9335.

FOR SALE: KLM Model KT-34 triband beam antenna. \$100.00. Magazines: QST 1977 thru 1994. CQ 1977, 1978, 1990 thru 1994. Ham Radio 1979 thru 1990. Best offer. Charles Bremigan, W9WJL, 3629 Cascade Road, Madison, WI 53704-2247. (608) 244-1310.

FOR SALE: Yaesu FT-50R dual band HTR, 5 Watts, as new, 5 months old, \$275.00. Call (920) 685-5018. □

_____ Admission tickets, \$4.00 (MUST be purchased with table)
_____ Table reservations \$5.00 for each 4-foot table
_____ Electrical Outlet \$5.00

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Brief description of display and items to be sold _____

Mail check with S.A.S.E. to SEWFARS, P.O. Box 102, Delafield WI 53018

Phone (414) 358-1003 or (414) 574-0917

PARTICIPATING CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Art Evans, KA9KLZ, Acting Secretary
213 N. Jefferson • Cuba City WI 53807-1558

WISCONSIN NETS

Net	WNA	Freq.	UTC	CST	Manager
BWN	Yes	3985	1200	0600	W9RCW
BEN	Yes	3985	1800	1200	KE9VU
WSBN	Yes	3985	2330	1730	K9UTQ
WNN	Yes	3723	0000	1800	N9MXW
WSSN	Yes	3645	0030	1830	N9BDL
WIN/E	Yes	3662	0100	1900	WB9ICH
WIN/L	Yes	3662	0400	2200	W9UW
RCRA	No	01/61 (Mondays CST)	0030 (Menomonee Area)	1830	KA9OMC
Gr. Bay	No	72/12 (Green Bay Area)	0245	2045	WB9NRK
ARES	No	4.65/5.25 (South East/South Central Wisconsin)	0200	2000	
RACES	No	3993.5 (LSB Sunday)	1400	0800	WA9OAY

Wisconsin NTS Traffic Report December 1997

With six of the seven active nets reporting, traffic, check-ins, and net time were all up in December. With the holiday traffic, that is to be expected. 3487 stations passed 2147 messages in 5003 minutes in December. BWN/1646, BEN/136, WSBN/100, WNN/no report, WSSN/21, WIN-E/109, and WIN-L/53.

Nine stations reported traffic totals in excess of 100, four of whom made Brass Pounders League. The stations are: W9-IHW/1040 (BPL), W9RCW/783 (BPL), WB9JSW/769 (BPL), K9JPS/758 (BPL), WB9YPY/345, W9CBE/344, K9FHI/239, N9KHD/200 and W9YCV/115. Twenty nine stations submitted Station Activity reports and twelve stations submitted Public Service Honor Roll reports.

Dan Novotny, WB9WHQ, is the new net manager of the Wisconsin Sideband Net.. Welcome to Dan as the new WSBN N/M and a big thank you to Gene Santoski, K9UTQ, who did a fine job over the past several years as N/M for the WSBN.

I mail my reports to League Headquarters on the 7th of the month. That makes

the deadline for reports the 6th. I can accept reports until I start printing them up for mailing. If you can catch me on the BWN on the morning of the 7th all would be well.

Hale Blakely, W9CBE, Asst. STM will also accept reports and forward them to me. Hale covers most of the CW and SSB nets so there is someone on almost every net to take reports.

Reports can also be sent via packet or e-mail.

My packet address is:

KA9KLZ @ KC9KQ.WI.USA.NOAM

My e-mail address is:

aevans@mhtc.net

Thanks to all stations who participate in the Wisconsin nets. You are the nets and Wisconsin nets are the best. 73.

Submitted by:
Arthur A. Evans, KA9KLZ
Wisconsin Section Traffic Manager
January 7, 1998

Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

Kim Kunze, N9SDL, Secretary

P.O. Box 363 • Wausau, WI 54402

Six Meter Repeater: 51.19 Input/52.89 Output

MEETING MINUTES January 6, 1998

The meeting was called to order by Jim N9SDI. Members present were N9-SDL, KB9DZG, KB9FRB, N9IAB, N9-TTA, N3FDE, KB9MCZ, K9QM, N9-NRC, KB9DED, N9NMH, WD9CPY, N9PHC, N9LIA and N9MEA. New members present as a result of passing their no-code exam were Char, KB9RWY, Dan, KB9RXX, and Norm, KB9RXXB. Visiting were Don, KA1T, and Char's son, John.

The minutes from last month's meeting as printed in BSSS were approved from a motion by KB9DED and 2nd by N9NMH. Treasurer's report was approved after a motion by N9LIA and 2nd by N9TTA.

Upcoming events were discussed, such as Special Olympic Winter games to be held February 21 and 22, 1998. See Jack, N9LIA, if you can help out with communications at Indianhead Golf Course for the Cross Country Skiing. Badger State Winter games will be held on February 7 and 8 1998. Will be looking for communications volunteers for these events.

We will be having a club-sponsored Special Event Station for the 150th celebration of Wisconsin's Statehood and operating as W9W. We will be operating at the 45/90 marker, which is also the corner of four grid squares, 44, 45, 54, and 55. The date will be Friday, May 29, 6:00 p.m. until Sat. May 30, 6:00 p.m. (May 30 0000Z - 2400Z). We will be operating in the lower 25 MHz (sic) of the General portion of the 10, 15, and 20 meter bands, as well as 51.25 SSB and 144.200 SSB. Operators interested, see a board member.

We will be conducting Dream Flight Wausau Communicator training for 5th graders of the Wausau School District in March and April (3/17, 3/31, 4/2 and 4/9) please offer to help with this training. Dream Flight week will be the first full

week of May. We plan to have a new HF antenna for the HF station as well as a new elementary school added to the list this year. We will be operating UHF voice and packet as well as Amateur TV from the elementary schools. We will be looking for volunteers for helping out that week at Mission Control with what ever time you can spare. It is a great time and we have some hams already signed up for the whole week!!

Under old business the status of the 6-meter repeater was discussed. It has been moved to N9NMH's garage for work. If you can help give him a call.

The club received the ARRL video library of nine tapes for use as club programs and for ham class. The ARRL approved making copies of the tapes for the Marathon County Public Library.

Thanks to Mike, KB9DED, for organizing the Christmas Parade Float and Santa's helpers, Phil, KB9DZG, Dody, KB9FRB, Matt, N9NMH, and Jack, N9-LIA. Thanks to Jim, N9SDI, for getting the Christmas gifts to the Health Care Center as well as finalizing the New Member Packet of Information. Thanks also to Tony, K9QM, Dody, KB9FRB, and Fred, WX9W, for serving as VE's for the December test session.

It was moved by KB9DED and 2nd by N9NMH to reserve Camp Phillips for Field Day 1998 for \$35. Jack, N9LIA, will stop by the Scout Office and sign us up and pay the deposit.

The program for the February meeting will be a special guest Weather Expert Please note the meeting location is at Wausau Metals for February.

The meeting was adjourned after a motion from WD9CPY and 2nd from KB9MCZ.

Thanks to Jack, N9LIA, for the soldering techniques video.

Respectfully submitted:
Kim Kunze, N9SDL

Notes From the Section Manager

Roy Pedersen, K9FHI • 510 Park Street
Juneau, WI 53039



Are you a member of ARRL? Don't forget ARRL has lots of things to offer, appointments, good magazine, and services for clubs.

Marty, KA9MSR recently received a promotion to Product Engineering Product Manager. Marty is the son of Ade and Carol, K9DHR and KA9IKS, from Kaukauna.

I regret to report the following Silent Keys: K9UGC, W9EBV, WB9UQT and WB9OHE.

KA9FNE, Arnie and his wife Bertha, recently celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary.

W9XY recently received his RO/UR8LV(Siberia). It was his last one needed to make the grade for the "basic" 160M WAZ award with a total of 30 out of 40 zones.

State representative Otte and others have just introduced a bill (AB680) which says no person while driving a motor vehicle, shall be so engaged or occupied with the use of a "mobile telecommunication device" as to interfere with the safe driving of such vehicle or as to impede the normal driving. This bill is directed primarily at cell phones, but does this include

ham radio? How about State Trooper, local law enforcement? It appears it does. I encourage everyone to write their representatives and senators telling them that you are not in favor of this bill. Be polite when talking with them; use common sense.

Also, your telephone company has filed a proposal with the FCC to impose per-minute charges on your Internet service; they say that our usage has or will hinder the operation of the telephone network. Send your comments, responses and tell them what you think. Every phone company is in on this one. I encourage each and every one to let the FCC know we are not in favor of this. Send e-mail to

isp@fcc.gov

Their Web site is

<http://www.fcc.gov/>

Be sure you do all the above. Thanks for reading this.

Roy,
K9FHI

FCC SEQUENTIAL CALLSIGN UPDATE

The following is a list of FCC sequentially assigned call signs issued as of January 5, 1998. Note that the last Group C call sign has been issued in the First District. Note that the last Group C call sign has been issued in the First District. New Technician and General class licensees are now being issued Group D call signs.

Dist	Group A Extra	Group B Advanced	Group C Tech/Gen	Group D Novice
0	AB0GT	KI0LF	+	KC0CNK
1	AA1TA	KE1IZ	+	KB1CHB
2	AB2EQ	KG2NJ	+	KC2CWL
3	AA3QP	KF3AT	+	KB3BZY
4	AF4HM	KU4NR	+	KF4VIK
5	AC5OQ	KM5NZ	+	KD5DAE
6	AD6EF	KQ6TW	+	KF6PBV
7	AB7XB	KK7LM	+	KC7ZYZ
8	AB8BT	KI8EV	+	KC8JBN
9	AA9VI	KG9MH	+	KB9RXH
N. Mariana Is	NH0B	AH0AY	KH0GV	WH0ABI
Guam	+	AH2DF	KH2TA	WH2ANV
Hawaii	KH7W	AH6PF	KH7HL	WH6DEL
Am. Samoa	AH8P	AH8AH	KH8DL	WH8ABF
Alaska	AL0H	AL7QW	KL0LM	WL7CUO
Virgin Islands	+	KP2CM	NP2JW	WP2AIJ
Puerto Rico	NP3S	KP3BE	NP3TN	WP4NNN

+ + All call signs in this group have been issued in this district.

The Racine Megacycle Club



Club Station W9UDU • Racine, WI
ARRL Affiliated
Providing Communications for American Red Cross and ARES

Mary Urban, N9ZWE, Secretary
c/o RMC • P. O. Box 3 • Racine, WI 53401-0003

MEETING MINUTES January 12, 1998

The meeting was called to order by President Rees Roberts, K9UUT, at 7:30 p.m. The following people were in attendance:

Rees	K9UUT, President
Robert	W9EH, Vice President
Dave	AA9HL, Treasurer
Mary	N9ZWE, Secretary
Harold	KB9LXM, Activities
Bruce	KB9QZR
Arne	KA9ZPY
Dan	KA9OIL
Cheryl	WS9P
Lee	N9VNU
Spencer	W9LDH
Alan	N9ZJW
Matt	Guest
Chuck	KB9JIH
Jon	KB9PUF
Kenny	N9WHR
Dave	WB9USI
Gene	WB9ZKY
Rob	KF9ZT
Paul	N9RGW
Don	KB9HAM
Larry	WA9JMO
Robin	KB9RCH
Bob	W0WLN
Tom	KA9JNT
Steve	K9ZL

Thursday evening, January 15, and there is no new information at this time.

Rob, KF9ZT, read the section of the Constitution that states that new members are to be voted in by the membership.

Cheryl, WS9P, stated that the *Badger Smoke Signals* should get a special thanks for giving us so much press space for the Amateur Radio Cruise. Rob, KF9ZT, sent in pictures and an article. If anyone is interested there is a BIG BAND CRUISE scheduled for November 14-21 and there are 8 spaces reserved. Contact Cheryl, WS9P, for further information.

Rees, K9UUT, announced that the Lakeshore Chapter of the Red Cross would like to reestablish liaisons with the Amateur Radio Community. He and Bob, W9EH, had a meeting with the new Director of Emergency Services, Wendall Fry. They wanted to work on our occupancy document and learn about our packet resources during an emergency. The board of directors of the Megacycle Club, Lakeshore Repeater, Lloyd, WB9RGO, A.R.E.S. Coordinator of Racine, and Ray, K9RI, A.R.E.S. Coordinator of Kenosha will be meeting with the Red Cross on January 20. They also requested information about Walworth County coverage.

Bob, W0WLN, questioned why the QCWA and 10-10 Clubs weren't notified. Representatives of these clubs were invited at that point.

Larry, WA9JMO, announced that he has ordered 50 copies of the new *Now You're Talking Book*. He is looking for instructors for the new class which will be starting Sunday, February 15, and be running for 12 weeks. No class is held Easter Sunday. The class will be from 6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Red Cross Building. Mary, N9ZWE, sent out 57 announcements to the schools in Racine and the Superintendent of Schools, promoting the class. Mary said her son has heard the announcement at Gilmore Middle School. Cheryl, WS9P, said the school gave the announcement to her to promote it. She stated the announcement was too long, and may be thrown out at other schools. We should get a contact person in the schools, particularly the science departments. Mary, N9ZWE, said the reason she sent a detailed letter was so that the people would know what was going on. Cheryl said the teachers get too much paperwork and do not care. Arne, KA9ZPY, said that people could post notices where they work. Mary, N9ZWE, also announced that 4 press releases have been sent out to various newspapers in the area.

Larry, WA9JMO, announced that the ham banquet has been scheduled for March. It will be held at LJ's Courtyard. They have not finalized the date yet. They are looking for nominees for Ham of the Year. Nominations can be sent to Larry, WA9JMO, Dave, AA9HL, or Ray, K9RI. They are also looking for the Olie Fox Award recipient. They must have been licensed over 25 years. Send this information to Larry, WA9JMO, or Bob, W0WLN. They would also like sugges-

tions for other awards that could be given out.

Dave, WB9USI, announced the next Fox Hunt would be February 27 at 7:30 p.m. in the west parking lot of Regency Mall. Rob, KF9ZT, and Joe, KB9HSJ, were the winners of the last hunt. The 1997 winner of the RMC-sponsored hidden transmitter hunt was Gene Haney, WB9-ZKY.

Bob, W9EH, discussed rules for mounting the 18" satellite dishes on apartment buildings and condominiums. He got the fact sheet from the FCC web site. The home owners association can't tell you can't have one.

Cheryl, WS9P, said anyone who has children ready for college should check out Amateur Radio scholarships.

Rees, K9UUT, said that we need to organize Field Day. Activities Director Harold, KB9LXM, will need co-chairs. Also, he would like to open the radio room for members to use the radio equipment. He's looking for ideas for future activities.

Bob, W9EH, moved that meetings be held at 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m. A discussion was held on the pros and cons of this idea. The motion was tabled till it is studied further. Future meetings will be shorter, to allow for other activities.

Rees, K9UUT, has concluded that we want more technical presentations.

Ken, N9WHR, stated the most popular topic on the Wednesday night chat net is antennae.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. □

Badger State Smoke Signals can serve your club, too! For info, talk with Ken Ehnert, KBEN. His address and e-mail info are on page 2.

President Rees, K9UUT, introduced the new board members for 1998. He requested a reading of the previous minutes, but they are published in the *Badger Smoke Signals* in lieu of a reading at the meeting.

Treasurer Dave, AA9HL, gave the treasurer's report. It was accepted as read.

President Rees, K9UUT, requested that everyone in attendance give a reason why they are at the meeting tonight. Everyone identified themselves and gave a short answer. Many stated that they would like to gain more knowledge from technical presentations and show and tell. Others liked the socialization aspect of the meeting. Some come to make announcements for various functions. It was suggested that we have printed handouts of programs.

Old Business

Dave, WB9USI, explained why the Amateur Radio and Computer Fest ad has not been updated on the back page of the *Badger Smoke Signals*. In September, Dave, AA9HL, sent in the \$90 to renew it plus the update of new members. Due to the fact that the treasurer of the *Smoke Signals* got ill, a lot of the stuff didn't get done. (BSSS editor's note: Our treasurer, Jim, WB9UQT, died in December of carcinoma. K9EN and myself are still sorting things out. Our apologies for the date not being changed and thanks for your understanding.) He will be following up on this.

Mary, N9ZWE, said that she has received the Field Day Logs for 1996 and 1997 and some pictures. She is still looking for logs previous to 1988. Arne KA9ZPY suggested that e-mails be sent to members notifying them of upcoming meetings and those without e-mail could be called. Cheryl, WS9P, suggested that we get a home page with RacineCounty.com. Mary, N9ZWE, stated that we have had that web site for a year. Everyone who has an e-mail address was instructed to write it in on the sign-in sheet.

New Business

Lee, N9VNU, announced the Wisconsin QSO Party. He had copies of the 1998 rules. It is March 15. More details will be reported at the February meeting.

Dan, KA9OIL, handed out flyers for the Odeum Swapfest Coach Charter bus for Sunday, January 25, 1998.

Chuck, KB9JIH, asked if they still vote in new members and that would they please vote in KB9RRX.

Lee, N9VNU, asked for an update on A.R.L.O.W. There will be a meeting

26th Annual MADISON SWAPFEST & COMPUTER FAIR

New Location

Sponsored by the Madison Area Repeater Association - W9HSY - Madison, WI

JOHN Q. HAMMONS TRADE CENTER

Doors Open at 8 A.M. - Sunday, April 5, 1998

Booth Exhibitors & Flea Market sellers with 6 or more tables admitted at 1A.M. All other sellers at 6A.M.

ADMISSION PER PERSON - \$5.00 ADVANCE / \$6.00 DOOR (Children 10 & under Free)

6 FT. TABLES - \$15.00 ADVANCE (Price does not include admission. You must buy separate admission ticket.)

For Information on Exhibitor Booths, Contact MARA, Box 8890, Madison, WI 53708-8890

(608) 245-8890 - Answering Machine, 24 Hours/Day

Visit the MARA Swapfest web site at: <http://www.cs.wisc.edu/~jeremyc/mara/swapfest/>

NEW MADISON SWAPFEST LOCATION

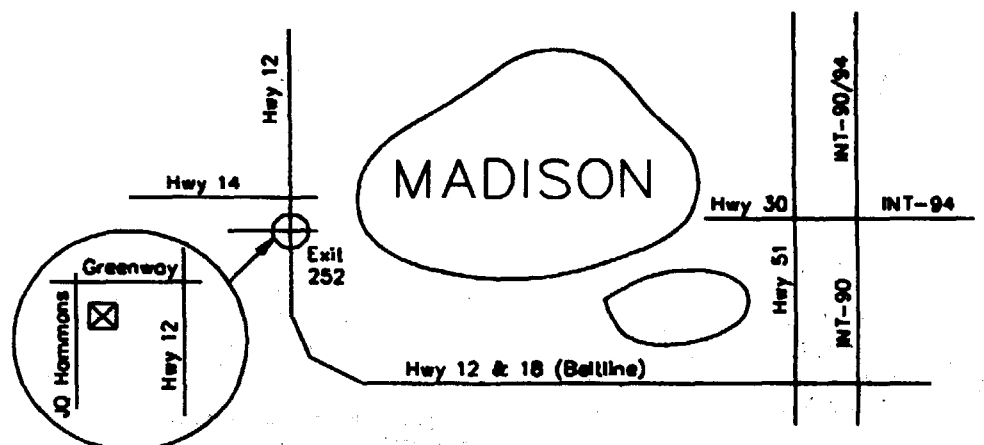
THE JOHN Q. HAMMONS TRADE CENTER, 1313 J.Q. HAMMONS DRIVE, MIDDLETON

Located next to the Marriott (Formerly the Holiday Inn- West)

** TALK-IN ON THE 147.15 REPEATER **

Rooms are available for Saturday night at the Fairfield Inn across the road. Call 608-831-1400. Ask for "MARA swapfest".

☺ FREE ☺
PARKING



Located about 15 miles west of the Hwys 12&18 and the I-90 interchange. On Hwy 12 in Middleton, take the Greenway Blvd exit #252. Head west and take the first left onto J.Q. Hammons Drive.

ADVANCE RESERVATION COUPON

NAME _____ CALL SIGN _____

COMPANY _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE () _____ SOCIAL SECURITY OR SELLERS PERMIT NO _____

PLEASE SEND _____ TICKETS AT \$5.00 PER PERSON (Required by the State of WI)

PLEASE RESERVE _____ 6 FT. TABLES AT \$15.00 EACH - Table Fee Does NOT include Admission Fee.

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ (A.C. outlets available to Booth Exhibitors ONLY.)

If there are no tables available, do you still wish to purchase tickets? YES () NO ()

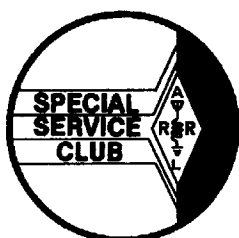
Make Checks Payable to MARA - Mail to MARA, Box 8890, Madison, WI 53708-8890

Ticket and Table Reservations Confirmed by Return Mail. **RESERVATIONS NOT ACCEPTED AFTER MARCH 28, 1998**

Mancorad Radio Club

Mary Langer, KB9GOY,
Secretary

P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI
54221-0204



2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output

The ManCoRad Amateur Radio Club did not meet in January due to extremely inclement weather.



E.C.A.R.C.
Eau Claire
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Burch Kelly, KB9RBN, Secretary
P.O. Box 1867 • Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867
146.91 • KB9RRA • 147.24 • <http://www.ecarc.org>

MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 13, 1998
7:30 p.m.

Eau Claire Parks and Recreation
Building 6:00 p.m.

This is the first meeting with the following officers:

President Tim McCaughey, KB9JOE
Vice President Fred Harlson, KC9NN
Secretary Burch Kelly, KB9RBN
Treasurer Jim Staatz, WB9RBP

Tim, KB9JOE, opened the meeting. Burch, KB9RBN, read the December minutes. They were approved as read.

Jim, WB9RBP, passed the current ECARC financial statement and the Hamfest financial statement out to members. Jim went through the numbers with the members.

Jim also discussed the projected figures for the 1998 Hamfest and pointed out the increases due to location cost increases. Daily facility rental, table rental and chair rental all increased this year. Discussion about the Hamfest began. Comments included:

- Most vendors do not pay in advance
- Professional vendors pay in advance
- Perhaps the prices should be adjusted to fit the increases

A discussion about prices continued. A motion was made for the Hamfest prices be set at \$10 for a table, \$5 for advance tickets, and \$6 for tickets at the door. It was seconded and approved by all except with one vote opposed.

It was suggested that Fridays could be eliminated at the Hamfest to avoid the cost of paying for the extra half-day.

It was strongly suggested that this time was needed for table and facility setup including early setup by the vendors if they desire. In order for vendors to be open at 8 a.m., they would have to start at 4 a.m. The table and room setup would have to start at midnight, which was not generally acceptable. It was moved that Friday be eliminated from the Hamfest schedule to reduce facility costs. The motion was seconded and voted on. The Nays carried the motion (several ayes were heard), and Friday will not be eliminated from the Hamfest schedule.

OLD BUSINESS

Tim, KB9JOE: Some work has to be done on the repeater in the sacred Heart Hospital penthouse.

The 146.910 repeater kerchunks. It is being affected by some transmission from a ham up north during good conditions. This ham triggers the repeater. Also, there is a growl. A discussion was made about toning the input. This would eliminate interfering signals from tripping the repeater. Perhaps a message could be put on the repeater stating that a tone is needed to use this repeater. Tim states that there is an extensive vocabulary that can be used on the repeater.

Bylaws: The Board of Directors have gone over the Bylaws and provided changes, many of which are grammatical. A copy of the changes was passed out to each of the members for review. This handout included the old bylaws, eliminated sections and the new suggested

sections. Several of the sections were discussed. Jim, KF9SK, provided an additional possible change which will be considered by the Board at their next meeting.

It was moved and seconded that the Bylaws, as amended and distributed tonight, be approved. A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously approved.

Members expressed appreciation by applause for the hard work put into the Bylaws by the Board of Directors.

NEW BUSINESS

Claire Bradford has passed away. The club sent flowers, which were appreciated by the family. Neil Bradford, his son, may be soon taking up Amateur Radio. He may eventually get his father's call sign.

It was suggested that a special-event station be set up in conjunction with the Wisconsin Sesquicentennial Celebration. It was noted that other ham clubs may do this, and that ECARC could coordinate with these other clubs. A special QSL card could be made up. West Allis may be one of the clubs doing this. Nat Perry, WO0CZ, will look into the special events station options.

It was suggested that an Amateur Radio program be introduced into Eau Claire middle schools to encourage potential young hams to learn about amateur radio. Perhaps a school station and club could be established for this purpose.

Tim reported on the current Mission-Eau Claire, which began January 10, 1998. Thirty people started the program on Saturday. Tests will be given February 7th, and March 7th (1st Saturdays of the month). Tim is thinking about offering other activities the day of the tests. Such an activity might include the assembly of an oscillator or other useful device by the kids. He is looking for ideas and volunteers to help with this.

Club hams may want to participate in an upcoming event. The Ninth Annual Midwest Renewable Energy Fair is being held at the Portage County Fairgrounds in Amherst, Wisconsin on June 19 thru 21, 1998. This is the biggest Renewable Energy fair in the nation. They may want a ham station set up and run there using solar energy. More information about the organization can be found on the internet or by contacting Richard Perez:

Richard Perez
Home Power
P.O. Box 520, Ashland, OR 97520 USA
Tele: 530-475-3179
FAX: 530-475-0836
Email: richard.perez@homepower.org
Web: <http://www.homepower.org>

Board of Directors Nominations

The election of the board of directors will take place February 10, 1998. Licensed members (including licensed family members) can vote or vote by proxy (signed letter assigning the vote). If you want to vote come to the February meeting. Nomination for Directors have been made for the following people:

Jack Brenner, N9UXH
Carl Searing, W9NW
Dan Perkins, N9HME
Joe Eide, KB9R

Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club

Tom Hrdina, N9GEN, President

2373 Willow Avenue • Medford WI 54451

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday, February 5th at 7 p.m. in the Emergency Government meeting room located in the basement of the sheriff's annex to the Taylor County Courthouse, corner of 2nd and Ogden Sts., Medford, WI. Talk-in on the 147.15 Medford repeater (+600 kHz) or 146.52 MHz simplex.

Annual elections for club officers will be held at this meeting. Please note that there were NO elections for officers in 1997, as no one was willing to run for any office, and the previous year's club president and treasurer are still serving in their old capacities, with the president also acting as secretary. Let's have a good turnout for this meeting, and see if we can't get a slate of officers elected for 1998!

CLARK/TAYLOR COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICE (ARES) NEWS

Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ
ARES Emergency Coordinator

• Don't forget to try to check into the weekly ARES net held Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. on the Medford repeater (147.75/147.15). If the repeater is down or not functioning properly, alternate frequen-

cies, in order, are 147.15 MHz simplex and 146.52 MHz simplex. You're also encouraged to volunteer for net control duty for the net.

OTHER NEWS

• The next scheduled meetings of the Black River Wireless Assn. (BRWA) are 2/26/98, 4/9/98 and 5/14/98, all Thursdays. The meetings start at 7:15 PM, are open to all area Amateur Radio operators, and will be held at the American Legion Hall in Loyal, Wis.

• An Amateur Radio Volunteer Examiner test session will be held in Medford on April 25th. More details to follow later.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

1998 Taylor Co. Area Amateur Radio Club membership dues and *Badger State Smoke Signals* subscription renewals are now due and payable. Dues can be paid at an upcoming meeting or can be sent to acting club treasurer Bernie Jari, KA9-WDX, W 3159 Hanley Lane, Medford, WI 54451. Dues are \$10.00/year. The club member's share of their club subscription to BSSS is \$7.00/year for 1998. Checks should be made payable to Taylor Co. Area Amateur Radio Club. NOTE: If your club dues and/or BSSS subscription are not paid for within the next few months, your access to the repeater autopatch will be revoked and your BSSS subscription will be terminated. So get those dues in today! Don't delay!



Washington County Amateur Radio Club

Tom Waldschmidt, N9LZW,
Secretary
465 Elder Lane
Allenton, WI 53002-9799

Club Repeater: 146.73 MHz

<http://www.nconnect.net/~WCARC>

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES January 10, 1998

Note: The annual meeting of the Washington County Amateur Radio Club was originally scheduled for Thursday, January 8, 1998 but was canceled because of a snowstorm. The election of officers was held at a meeting following the club's Annual Dinner Banquet, January 10, 1998.

MINUTES

The Annual meeting of the Washington County Amateur Radio Club was held on January 10, 1998. The meeting was called to order by President Gary Sutcliffe, W9XT, at 8:00 p.m. Gary announced that this meeting was called because of the cancellation of the regularly scheduled Annual Meeting.

Gary said that amendments to the club's constitution were to be considered at this meeting but that were not enough members present to approve them. He said the only item of business was to be the election of officers. Gary asked if there were any nominations to be made.

Don, K9GR, said the nomination

committee had nominees for four offices. They were: Paul Ripple, W9SIZ, for President; Walt Gossfeld, N9LLS, for Vice President; Tom Waldschmidt, N9LZW, for Secretary; and Don Woelz, K9GR, for Repeater Committee Chairman. There was no nominee for the office of Treasurer from the committee or from the floor.

Because there was only one candidate for each of the four offices mentioned above, Secretary Tom, N9LZW, asked for a motion to cast a unanimous ballot for these offices. There was a motion by Sherm, W9NGT, seconded by Keith, KY9P, to cast a unanimous ballot for the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Repeater Committee Chairman. Motion carried.

The 1998 officers of the club are: President Paul (Rip) Ripple, W9SIZ; Vice President Walt Gossfeld, N9LLS; Secretary Tom Waldschmidt, N9LZW; and Repeater Committee Chairman Don Woelz, K9GR.

There was a motion by Bill, N9IBU, seconded by Don, K9GR, to adjourn the

Continued on page 13

Jon Case, KE9KW
Rod Steele, AA9UK

Skywarn training is scheduled for Tuesday, April 14, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Labor Temple.

We need operators for the Sunday night net. Please help spread the load around.

A ham equipment auction is scheduled for February 24th at the American Legion Post 53 on 634 Water Street in Eau Claire. Doors open at 6 p.m. Call in frequency is 146.01/61 MHz. Bring your gear.

Jim, WB9RBP, recommends that everyone watches and follows the band plan.

Tim, KB9JOE, suggests that the club considers expanding the club name or

moniker to recognize the geographic scope of the club includes the whole Chippewa Valley, rather than only the Eau Claire area.

Tim, KB9JOE, suggests that we need a program or presentation for our March meeting.

The lunch committee volunteers for the February meeting are:

Jon Case, KE9KW
Bruce Schaffer
Burch Kelly, KB9RBN

The meeting was adjourned and refreshments attacked.

Burch Kelly, KB9RBN
Secretary

At University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point

WATTS SNOO



WB9QFW 2-Meter Repeater 146.07-.67 and Club Station

249 Georgia Street North • Stevens Point WI 54481-1040

The CWRA held its annual banquet on Wednesday, January 14, 1998 at the Sky Club in Plover. 39 members and guests enjoyed an evening of friendship and good food. It is rumored that several lies and exaggerations were overheard throughout the course of the evening, with most topics of these distortions focusing on the sizes of fish, antennas and RF amplifiers (although not necessarily in that order).

Four members were recognized with plaque mounted certificates for their contributions in 1997.

John Feltz, W9JN, was given a "President's Award" to recognize his effort and leadership in overseeing the club's swapfest and Field Day operations in 1997. John guided the switch to new locations for both events, resulting in high levels of satisfaction with the swapfest and a BIG jump in the club's Field Day score.

Wayne Johnson, K9MIF, received another "President's Award". Wayne was the instigator and tireless promoter of the club's swapfest and Field Day operations in the late 70's and early 80's. Wayne began a tradition that has become a focal point for club pride, and this honor was

long overdue.

Jerry Fadness, W9GF, received the "Elmer Award" for his development and delivery of a customized and highly successful upgrade course that produced 6 Advanced Class (100% success!) licenses. 3 class members decided to extend the class for one more session to prepare for the Extra, and all 3 passed that exam as well!

Mark Nemzoff, N9ICY, became the first recipient of the "Ace Operator" award to honor his outstanding operating practices. Mark consistently exhibits the highest standards for courtesy, efficiency and conformance with local and national rules. New members are encouraged to view Mark's operating practices as a model worthy of shameless imitation!

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 11, at 7:30 PM in the UWSP Science Building. The room number is being determined at press time, so monitor local repeaters when you come to the meeting!

Reported by
Mike Pagel, K9UW

Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.

Steve Hart, KA9OMC, Secretary

E616 810th Avenue

Knapp, WI 54749

2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61 Output

Greetings, RCRA members and guests.

There is good news to report on the Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club's sponsored ham classes. AA9UK, Rod, indicated that there were over 30 students and parents in the Technician class and 6 in the 5 WPM code class, of which one is N9ZFY, Everett, from Durand. Good luck to all.

Code practice on the RCRA 146.01/61 repeater has had good turnout so far. Look for practice on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome to help. Dust off that code oscillator and send us a few groups.

Remember our Monday night net is at 6:30 p.m. KF9CU, Arlene, usually has ARRL bulletins, and you can list your club activities as well as list your own personal amateur-related-for-sale items.

Everyone is invited to join fellow amateurs for Saturday morning get-togethers at Hardee's in North Menomonie at 9 a.m. on the west wall.

Washington County Amateur Radio Club

Continued from page 12

meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom, N9LZW, Secretary

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 02/05/98, 7:30 PM Net, 146.730
- 02/07/98, 9:00 AM Breakfast, Jimmy's in Jackson
- 02/12/98, 7:00 PM, ARES meeting
- 02/12/98, 7:30 PM, WCARC meeting, Washington County Courthouse
- 02/14/98, 9:00 AM, Breakfast, Mineshaft in Hartford
- 02/19/98, 7:30 PM, Net, 146.730
- 02/21/98, 9:00 AM, Breakfast, Slinger Inn in Slinger
- 02/26/98, 7:30 PM, Net, 146.730
- 02/28/98, 9:00 AM, Breakfast, Woodview in West Bend

We are especially sorry to report the passing of W9SLT, Clare Bradford, who instructed electronics at the vocational school in Eau Claire. Clare, along with W9KTE, Fred Brechelin, are credited with much of the success of the amateur station we used to enjoy while on campus in the early 1970s.

WB9OKQ, Lyle at Star Prairie, reports son Jim has been hospitalized with severe reactions to winter's virus, and W9AVM, Jim, reports wife Betty, N9ISR, has had recent bypass surgery. Get wells to all.

N9TOW, Doug, and friend Heather from Knapp, have tied the coax. The whole affair took place over the military leave Doug had over the holidays. KB9MMT, Jeff, was the best man, and it looks like Doug will soon be stationed in Japan.

K9KGB, Bill at Menomonie, has attended tax preparation classes in Eau Claire. Bill will be volunteering his service at surrounding senior centers.

If you like short wave and don't have a receiver covering anything but AM frequencies, try 990 KC for Canadian Broadcast Overnight. Beside local Winnipeg news, you will be host to segments from almost all European nations, including programs from Australia and others. The hitch is - you'll have to be a night owl.

Many thanks to WA9PAM, Ron from Chippewa Falls, for donating many items for our coming auction.

Please plan to attend the club auction February 24 at the American Legion Post, 634 Water Street, Eau Claire, WI. Auction time is 7 p.m. sharp. Doors will open at 6 p.m. for you to set up your items. Equipment should pertain to the electronics hobby. Please mark all items with some identification and what you will accept for a minimum bid. Some snacks and coffee will be provided. W9QAH, Bruce Walther, will auction your items to the highest bidder. The RCRA is not responsible for any loss. Keep track of your stuff. All sales are final and we will auction what time will allow. Admission is \$3 at the door or paid 1998 RCRA support. RCRA will retain 10% of all sales to offset expenses. Come to buy, sell, or just have fun. See you at the Eau Claire auction.

Steve Hart, KA9OMC
RCRA Secretary/Treasurer



SHEBOYGAN County Amateur Radio Club

Mike Musiel, KF9SJ, Secretary
N9001 Dairyland Dr., Cleveland WI 53015

The January 13th meeting of the Sheboygan County Amateur Radio Club was called to order by Larry, WB9FXQ.

The SCARC meets every second Tuesday of the month at the Red Cross building, 2032 Erie Ave. in Sheboygan at 7 PM.

There will be no regular meeting in February, as the meeting is traditionally held at the February Banquet. This year the banquet will be held at the Fountain Park Restaurant in Sheboygan on Saturday the 21st at 6:30 PM. Meals will be ordered off the menu, so no prepayment for the banquet will be necessary. We hope to see all of you there!

Weather was far less than perfect for this meeting, and due to a light turn out, the program was postponed until the next regular meeting in March. The March program will be on meeting the RF Safety requirements required by stations as of 1 January 1998.

Art, K9XJ gave his monthly DX report, and recalled the content of actual

QSO's heard on the air during the holidays. Proper ham etiquette with DX stations was discussed, including the "Wishing of Merry Christmas" to DX stations of other faiths. In short, think about who you are talking to, and remember to be respectful of their beliefs.

Net Schedules

7 PM Monday Nights, SCARC Fun Net, 147.06 PL 107.2, +.

Traders Net - Following the Monday night net on the first Monday of the month.

6:30 PM Thursday Nights, ARES Net, 147.255 PL 127.3, +, 444.175 PL 107.2 +.

10 net on 28.350 USB. Meets at 7:30 PM, following the Monday night 2 meter net.

Respectfully submitted:
Michael J. Musiel, KF9SJ

Quarter Century Wireless Association Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162

Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO
5400 Six Mile Road
Racine, WI 53402



The officers and members of Chapter 162 would like to express their appreciation to Marbeth (Ken, N9NBC) Knoff for the hand-made table decorations donated to last December's Christmas party. Thanks, Marbeth!

In recognition of Bill Komistra's (W9OVZ) dedication to Amateur Radio and our Chapter, President Spencer Clope, W9LDH, presented Bill with the National QCWA Meritorious Award at the Christmas Party. It is presented in recognition of an individual's contributions to our hobby, service to the community and Chapter involvement. The award is only given once per year per chapter. Congratulations, Bill!

At our January 19th business meeting, President Clope appointed an audit committee: Chairman Al Algiers, W9HR; Chuck Knotek, W9GKM; and Ed Konicek, W9NVK, to make sure the Maserati that Treasurer Bob Jensen, W0WLN, is running around in was not purchased with Chapter funds.

We were also treated to a "Show and Tell" by Bill Komistra on his 20-meter Ladder-line 450-ohm Folder Dipole fed with 50-ohm RG-58 as described in the December issue of *Worldradio*. Bill said that this is a very durable and versatile antenna. It is easy to store and lay out for use. Bill could be found nightly operating 20-meter CW from various campsites after traversing our great country in the saddle of his motorcycle during the daylight hours.

Our Valentine party will be held on Sunday, February 15, at the Fireside Restaurant and Lounge, 2801 30th Avenue in Kenosha beginning at 1 pm. The menu selection is limited to Broasted Chicken, Chopped Steak, Walleye Pike and White Fish. A card will be sent to all members detailing the event. Our Chapter President, Spencer Clope, will present a Red Carnation to each lady attending the event.

It was reported last month that Ellanora (Herb, W9PHJ) Ladwig had fallen at home; at the time the cause precipitating the fall was under investigation. I have been informed that Ellanora suffered a mild stroke, and is currently participating in daily therapy at home and experiencing weekly improvements. Great news, we are all looking forward to your future participation in Chapter events.

Our Chapter is actively working toward obtaining the call of past member and Silent Key Olie Fox, K9AKG, as our Club Call. Notification of his Silent Key status sent to the FCC was the first in many steps towards this goal. I will keep you informed monthly as the drama unfolds. I'm sure we are going to run into a few (?) problems; but maybe I'm wrong?

The Racine Megacycle Club, the Lakeshore Repeater Association and Chapter

162 will host a No-code Technician class at the Racine Chapter of the American Red Cross building, 4521 Taylor Avenue on Sunday evenings from 6 to 8:30 pm beginning on February 15, 1998 and continuing for 12 weeks. The class will utilize ARRL's "Now You're Talking" book. It will be available on the first evening of class. If you know of anyone interested in becoming a ham, give me a call at (414) 639-7327. I am also looking for instructors.

The "Greater Southeastern Wisconsin Amateur Radio Banquet" is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 1998 at the Racine Yacht Club, 2 Hubbard Street, in Racine. Flyers for the event will be distributed at all upcoming radio events and reservations may be given to Bob Jensen, W0WLN.

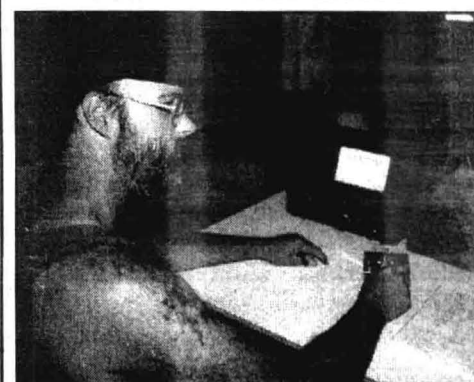
In conjunction with the Ham Banquet, the local radio clubs are looking for nominations for the "Ham of the Year" and the "Olie Fox Award of Excellence" plaques. The criteria for each is as follows: The Ham of the Year nominations can be for any licensed Amateur living in the greater Southeastern Wisconsin area. This includes Northeastern Illinois. The ham must have contributed significantly to Amateur Radio and his or her community. The nomination must be in writing detailing why the individual was nominated. Nomination for the Olie Fox Award of Excellence is similar, with the exception being that the individual nominated must have first been licensed 25 years prior to receiving the award.

Nominations for either award can be mailed to Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO, 5400 Six Mile Road, Racine, WI 53404. For clarification or more details, I can be reached by telephone at (414) 639-7327 or by e-mail at:

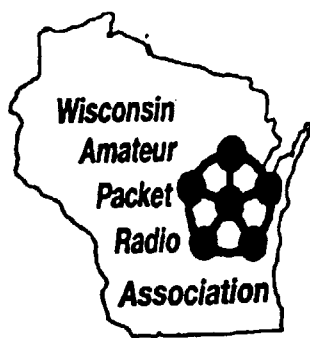
wa9jmo@wi.net.

73, Larry McCalvy, WA9JMO

THINK FIELD DAY!



Bob Sauvin, WT9Q, operating at the Yellow Thunder ARC Field Day site two years ago, reminds us that this summer fun is only six months away!



THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association

Bob Gedemer, KA9JAC

609 Wilson Street • Neenah, WI 54956

Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, Editor • 720 N. Broadway (Upper West) • Green Bay, WI 54303

WAPR News - January 1998

Welcome to February. I hope it treats you well, and we do not have too much payback for our mild-weathered January.

This marks the third anniversary of the "Using the Wisconsin Network" series. It sure does not seem like three years has gone by! It seems like only yesterday that I approached Joel, N9BQM about contributing a few columns for the WAPR page in the BSSS. At the time, he was the editor of this page. Since then, he has moved on to be chair of WAPR, and I inherited this job. The "few articles" has grown and will continue to do so, as long as I have material to continue.

I am pleased by the largely positive comments I have received concerning the series. Truth be told, I have not really received much correspondence about the series, or much about this page. I am always interested to hear from everybody, and am pleased to be able to give you another route to contact me.

This does fall in line perfectly with the series' current topic. You can E-Mail me at KB9BYQ's Internet Gateway. The address would be: kb9aln@kb9byq.ampr.org. This is a practical demonstration of one use of a gateway. Another is the presentation of these two articles - they were E-Mailed to the Badger State Smoke Signals through this very gateway!

If you have any comments to make regarding this page, by all means, E-Mail me there. I am especially interested in hearing about any network news, and any packet radio experimentation going on.

Experimentation is one of the neat things we all enjoy with packet radio. At KB9BYQ's internet gateway is a very big experiment that is about to get bigger. As of this writing, the latest talk involves using his Internet Gateway and another in Madison to link the southwestern and northeastern parts of the state together. Plans have not been firmed-up just yet, but it will be interesting to see how this progresses.

Two big reasons are behind this sudden interest in internet linkage. One is the simply the fact that it can be done. Another is the radio element - it is difficult to get any great distance out of the system the way it is now. While Radio is the preferred method of constructing a network, this linkage is an interesting "work-around" for the time being.

Why do we have such problems with radio? After all, we're supposed to be good at it. Truth be told, sending data via radio is not an easy thing to do reliably. There are a number of commercially implemented schemes to do it, and some work well enough. But this kind of development is difficult for the ham to carry on in his basement shop. However, there has to be a better way to do what we are trying to do.

This leads me to explore the problem through another "editorial". Last month I took a position on the subject of the propriety of Internet-to-Amateur Radio gateways. This month I will note my observations and state my opinion as to why we have such problems with using radio in the first place. Take a look at the accompanying editorial and feel free to send me your comments.

On to another subject. The Green Bay Node Stack is once again operational. While it needs it's periodic maintenance, it is functioning pretty well. Still in the works is a preamp for the radio in Appleton that talks to the node in Black Creek. This may well be operational by the time you read this.

That's all for now. Remember, if you have packet radio news of interest, drop me a note via packet, E-Mail, or U.S. Mail. 73 for now from Andy.

Using the Wisconsin Network - Part 36

by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

In our last installment of this series, we started a discussion of Amateur Radio-to-Internet Gateways. Non-interactive gateways (used for mail forwarding and to complete the network) are largely "invisible" to you. So we will devote our time to the discussion of using interactive gateways. These packet radio stations can perform most, if not all, of the following functions:

- 1) Handling Internet E-Mail (Outgoing and Incoming).
- 2) Provide access to other Amateur Gateways.
- 3) Allow connections to Internet sites of Amateur Interest.
- 4) Provide local node service.
- 5) Provide access to Amateur "Converse Servers" (more on that later).
- 6) Provide access to a few Amateur-interest "mailing lists".
- 7) Make dedicated node circuits available to other packet operators in other parts of the country.

By far the most popular use of a gateway is for Internet Electronic Mail. You could use a gateway to E-Mail anybody who has an internet E-Mail address. Of course, there are some limitations as to who you can E-Mail because we are using Amateur Radio. Legality, privacy, and other message content are important considerations here.

That being said, how do you do it? Surprisingly enough, there is not too much difference between gateway E-Mail messaging and

"regular" packet messaging. The procedure is the same as using any BBS, in fact, you are greeted with a BBS-style prompt when you log-in. Consider the prompt you get when logging into the KB9BYQ gateway in Appleton:

```
CALL,BBS,WX,CONV,ATH,1200,NODE,NWS,IND,SI
MI,ZED,MI,FLJ,BYP,OEQ.
KARL,BGATE,SYSOP,CAN,TEXAS,GRB4,A,B,C,CO,D,E,FI
,G,H,I,J,KM,L,M,N,O,P,PI,PO,Q,R,S,T,U,V,W,X,Y,Z,?>
```

While this seems to be quite a lengthy prompt, some of it will look familiar. Notice the K, KM, L, R and S in there. They do the same thing as on any other mailbox or BBS. While the Appleton gateway does not support mail into the packet BBS system, some other gateways also provide this service.

The procedure for sending Internet E-Mail is the same as you are used to, assuming you have used a packet mailbox or BBS of some sort. Assume you want to send a message to your friend, who has an E-Mail address of bigbob@aol.com. After you get the prompt, type:

s bigbob@aol.com

You will get a return prompt of:

Subject:

As usual, you will type in a subject, and press the Enter key.

The next prompt says:

Enter Message (^A Aborts, end with ^Z or /EX on a new line):

Then, you type your message. When you are through, press the Enter key and send the key combination Control and Z, or send /EX to close the message. The gateway will respond with:

Message forwarding to bigbob@aol.com

and return the BBS-style prompt.

Reading mail is exactly the same as you normally do - R 1 will let you read your message #1 on the computer. KM will kill all of your messages, and K (followed by the message number) will kill a selected message.

While this is simple enough to do, there are a couple of things you need to be aware of before you send off your first message.

1) Internet E-Mail addresses are case-sensitive. You cannot expect to leave your "Caps-Lock" on and have an address interpreted correctly. BIGBOB@AOL.COM is not the same as bigbob@aol.com, nor is it the same as bigbob@AOL.com.

2) While we are on the subject, it is not considered good etiquette to type your message out entirely in upper-case. Internet-savvy folks refer to this as "Shouting".

3) What's legal? In general, you follow the same rules regarding voice radio operation. While the FCC does permit us to carry on a limited amount of business over the air, it does not allow us to run a business over the air. It is best to be safe with this. Do not make any business inquiries via E-Mail and make certain the language in any message (sent or received) is within the limits of Part 97.

4) What's permitted? The gateway operator becomes the "first forwarder" of any traffic you may receive. Because of his license is on the line, he sets any restrictions on it's use. Consult the gateway Sysop about his usage policy.

5) Disconnect if you start to receive an inappropriate message. Reconnect to the gateway, list the message, and kill it. If it is unwanted E-Mail from a commercial promoter ("SPAM"), notify the gateway Sysop. If the offending mail is from an acquaintance, perhaps a phone call to him or her is in order.

6) Incorrect addressing will result in an error message appearing the next time you log in to the gateway. If you get one of these, simply kill off this message, along with the original "bounced" message. Re-check your addressing, and try sending the message again.

That's all for this time. In the next installment, we'll discover more things you can do with a gateway. Until then, 73 from Andy.

Editorial - February 1998

What's wrong with Packet Radio?

Last month, readers were exposed to my views regarding Internet Gateways. These views (as well as the ones appearing in this column) are my views only, and do not reflect the entire WAPR board or membership.

While the topic of this discussion is "What's wrong", I will not attempt to affix blame. This is just a discussion of why radio seems to be so difficult in Packet Radio. If you read last month's editorial, you already know that I am a great supporter of radio network linkages. However, no one who has ever assembled a node stack, kept up a BBS, or tried to use the network over a long distance is oblivious to the fact that radio is not the best medium for computers to talk to each other. This begs the question: Why is this?

It is my view, through careful observation, there are two reasons for this difficulty. One is the "Hidden Transmitter Syndrome", responsible for packet collisions. There are newer methods of packet networking available to alleviate this problem.

However, there are other accompanying problems that may make us think twice about investing in the support of such methods.

The other reason why radio is so difficult has to do with the protocol we have been using for packet radio. Anyone who has explored computers and packet knows that a protocol is a standardized method that two computers use to talk to each other. In packet radio, this protocol is AX.25.

Before I go any further, let's understand that I don't mean the plain-text world of packet operating that most people on packet radio use. While this uses AX.25, it is fair to note that every type of communication done on packet radio uses AX.25 in some way, whether it be Net/Rom, TCP/IP, APRS, or whatever. They all rely on the AX.25 protocol to carry packets from one place to another. Let's be clear - the AX.25 problem is not one of "Operating Mode". It is the way the computers talk to each other.

The AX.25 protocol not only is capable of carrying plain text, but it can also carry other networking protocols. So understand that I am not attempting to instigate a "TCP/IP vs AX.25" debate here. When I say the problem lies in the AX.25 protocol, I mean in the technical manner that the computer data is formatted and turned into an audio signal that the transmitter sends out over the air. Using a Node, TCP/IP or just plain text requires the use of the AX.25 protocol.

AX.25 was perhaps the second amateur protocol used in packet radio (the first being the Vancouver Amateur Digital Group Protocol). It was modified from the X.25 protocol developed by Bell Labs some time ago. X.25 was never meant to be sent over a network any distance, it was "modified" by amateurs to conform to the packet radio vision they had in the very dawn of packet.

AX.25 is difficult to decode. It is prone to errors (for a variety of reasons) and doesn't do anything to alleviate the hidden transmitter syndrome by itself. It has no "Forward Error Correction" to help correct decoding errors. Consequently, it is difficult to transfer data at high rates. Which has a negative effect on this aspect of the hobby. Successful high-speed packet radio has seemed to elude us for anything more than short hops. The equipment required for high-speed operation is often costly and requires precision alignment.

This has made 1200 bps packet operation the "norm" for us. Which turns off a lot of potential users to the mode - it simply slow, and there is an inevitable comparison with the Internet. Our 1200 bps operation seems to crawl compared to the 28.8 Kbps that most people use there. The slowness also limits the number of users on a given radio channel.

So we have settled in to a stagnant situation with packet radio. There has been little growth in the networks, even a loss in the user base, and frustration over congestion and lack of speed.

What to do? That is not easily answered, and it is nothing that any one person can do - it will take a collective effort. There has been some movement toward improving or replacing our packet radio protocol. While this might seem to threaten the status-quo, it might not have as much of an impact as you'd think. In fact, it presents opportunities.

In my humble opinion, it seems best that the amateur community put this protocol replacement to the forefront of it's efforts to improve and advance packet radio. And the more we talk about it, the sooner we may see this as a reality.

Assuming the more technically inclined folks in our hobby do establish a new standard, we will have to welcome it with "open arms". This may seem a little drastic and daunting of a task, but we can make a move less painful if we accomplish it in phases.

The first phase would most logically affect the network transport part of packet radio. It would require the changes in our network "infrastructure" at some time. Any change would need the involvement of the whole packet community acting in concert. Making a "giant leap" at the network level may do us the most good with data throughput. This would allow a gradual phase-out of the old AX.25 protocol on the user LANs, yet improve network performance greatly. There would have to be some kind of "conversion interface" between the AX.25 we are using now and that of a future protocol.

The second phase would be the users themselves. This would require upgrade and conversion kits for most people, and reasonably priced new units on the market.

While I do not present any specific proposals on how to do this, it is something that we may confront in the next few years. We should approach all of this with an open mind and an honest, hard look at the way things are working (or not working) now. And we should prepare for the future of packet radio networking now.

I urge you to support the call for an advanced Amateur Packet Protocol and approach it as an exciting opportunity to move forward, rather than another new gadget you'll have to spend money on. Once we do get beyond this, the packet radio possibilities will seem to be limitless!

73 from Andy...

THE TEST POINT

(continued from page 3)

ONALASKA, WI (ARRL/VEC)

The Riverland Amateur Radio Club will hold test sessions at the Onalaska Public Library, 741 Oak Avenue South. registration begins at 9:00 a.m. with testing at 9:15 a.m. Please bring two forms of identification and two copies of all original documents, CSCEs, license, etc. For more information contact: Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 526 13th Ave. N., Onalaska, WI 54650. (608) 783-0732.

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL (ARRL/VEC)

Contact: Frank Stankiewicz, (847) 437-1464.

CEDARBURG, WI - ORC HAMFEST

EAU CLAIRE, WI - ECARC HAMFEST
GREEN BAY, WI - ARES HAMFEST
HAYWARD, WI - HAYWARD HAMFEST
KAUKAUNA, WI - SWAPFEST
MANITOWOC, WI - LAKESHORE HAMFEST
MARSHFIELD, WI - HAMFEST
OAK CREEK, WI - SMARC HAMFEST
RACINE, WI - RACINE HAMFEST
RHINELANDER, WI - NWARC SWAPFEST
ROCKFORD, IL - RARC HAMFEST
ROTHSCHILD, WI - WVRA HAMFEST
SOUTH MILWAUKEE, WI - SMARC HAMFEST
STEVENS POINT, WI - CWRA SWAPFEST
WAUKESHA, WI - KMRA SWAPFEST
WAUKESHA, WI - MIDWINTER SWAPFEST
DUBUQUE, IA - HAMFEST

See the Swapfest column for additional information and contact persons.

DUBUQUE, IA - ARRL/VEC

Dubuque Hamfest. Contact: Carl Clark, N0KAX, 2145 Delicia Drive, Dubuque, IA 52001. (319) 557-9149.

LOVE SPARK, IL

Third Saturday of every month. Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners (W5YI VEC). Held at North Suburban District Library, 6340 North Second St. (Hwy. 251), Loves Park, IL. Contact: Dennis G. Eksten, W9SS, (815) 877-6768.

MINNESOTA TEST INFORMATION

From "The Ground Wave", Saint Paul Radio Club.

Saint Paul Radio Club (SPRC)

Contact: Ed VanCleave, W0VC, (612) 636-0108
Test Site: St. Paul Technical College
235 Marshall Ave.
St Paul, MN

TESTING: First Saturday of the month, 8:30 a.m.

Anoka Amateur Radio Club (AARC)

Contact: Joe Wivoda, N0AU, (612) 753-6481
Test Site: Blaine City Hall
9150 Central Ave NE
Blaine, MN

TESTING: Second Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

Bloomington Office of Emergency Management

(Bloomington Amateur Radio Club (BARC))
Contact: Dan Royer, KE0OR (612) 888-9756
Test Site: Creekside Community Center
98th & Penn Avenue S
Bloomington, MN

TESTING: Fourth Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

Valley Amateur Radio Club (VARC)

Contact: Bill Martin, A10D (612) 432-0438
Test Site: Hayes Community Center
14601 Hayes Road
Apple Valley, MN

TESTING: Second Thursday of the month 7:00 p.m.

W5YI Group

Contact: Dave Ranney, N0AXL (612) 542-2553
Test Site: Eden Prairie Library
479 Eden Prairie Drive

Eden Prairie, MN

TESTING: Third Tuesday of the month 6:30 p.m.

SE Metro Area Radio Club (SEMARC)

Contact: Dave Harrell, N0IPN (612) 459-8678
Test Site: Cottage Grove fire Station
8641 80th ST., S
Cottage Grove, MN

TESTING: Third Saturday of the month, 9:00 a.m.

The times and places listed above are the usual time and place for each VE team. Occasionally, sessions are canceled or changed. It is a good idea to call ahead to confirm the test time and place.

This section of Badger State Smoke Signals is available to publicize your Volunteer Examiner Amateur Radio license examination schedules. Please send us your schedules of dates, times, and locations that you will be conducting examinations and we will include the information here. Be sure to include contact address and any other necessary requirements. Information should be sent to K9EN at the address shown on page 2.

ARRL BOARD MEETING

From the ARRL Letter

Expressing confidence in the League's leadership team, the ARRL Board of Directors has re-elected all current officers. Among those tapped for new two-year terms was President Rod Stafford, ex-KB6ZV, who now sports the call sign W6ROD. Also re-elected were First Vice President Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML, Vice Presidents Joel Harrison, W5ZN, and Hugh Turnbull, W3ABC, International Affairs Vice President Larry Price, W4RA, Treasurer James McCobb, WILLU, Executive Vice President and Secretary David Sumner, K1ZZ, Chief Financial Officer Barry Shelley, N1VXY, and—for one-year terms—all



Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

WB9FDZ (Original Club Call)
K9ODK (Robert L. Prine Memorial Call)

Raymond J. Matlosz, N9MLZ, Secretary
450 West 2nd Street • Reedsburg, WI 53959



The January 20th meeting of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club, Inc., was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by the club vice-president, Bill Hommel, KA9QFJ.

The minutes of the December meeting as published in the BSS were accepted as printed.

Bill Klinkner, K9KXX gave the financial report. Jim Decker, WB9UQT had been the club treasurer for many years. He became a silent key last month. Three club members served as pall bearers at the funeral.

One of the issues discussed at length was how to deal with the unpaid bill(s) with BSSS. As of today's meeting, there are 20 paid club members. However, there are 51 subscriptions to BSSS that the club is being billed for (quick math - we are paying out more than we are getting in). Bill Klinkner will be sending a letter to selected club members informing them of the situation and reminding them to renew their membership and please send money now.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Club members recommended we participate in this year's Circus Heritage Days in Baraboo to be held May 15, 16 and 17. Posters were made available for club members announcing the club's second annual swapfest to be held Saturday August 8, 1998 at the Sauk County Fairgrounds in Baraboo. Thomas Harrison accepted the support of club members to be a member-at-large board member. Bill Klinkner

current Executive Committee members. The action came as the Board met for its first regular session of the new year January 16 and 17 in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. For several hours on January 16, the Board gathered under emergency lighting because of a power outage caused by an ice storm.

The League ended 1997 in the black and in overall sound financial shape, the Board was told. That was a dramatic improvement from 1996, when the League finished the year in red ink. The Board also approved a financial plan for 1998 that will continue 1997's successful fiscal management policies.

The Board also okayed the appointment of up to 15 members of The President's Roundtable, a group of influential Amateur Radio leaders and strong League supporters to guide development and endowment activities. The League plans to launch a "vigorous program of education on planned and deferred giving."

In response to repeated member complaints of malicious interference and the use of foul language on the amateur bands, the Board established an Enforcement Task Force to push for better rules enforcement from the FCC. Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, will chair the 10-member panel. Other members include President Stafford, Directors Joe Falcone, N8TI, Frank Fallon, N2FF, Kay Craigie, WT3P, Fried Heyn, WA6WZO, and Marshall Quiat, AG0X, Vice President Hugh Turnbull W3ABC, General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and Field Services Manager Rick Palm, K1CE. The Task Force will oversee and work closely with the Amateur Auxiliary and make recommendations to the Board on enforcement issues.

The ARRL also will ask the FCC for a declaratory ruling to put teeth into the voluntary band plan concept. The League wants the FCC to affirm that any operation that conflicts with established, voluntary band plans and causes interference or adversely affects those operating in accordance with applicable band plans "is not good amateur practice" and would be considered a rules violation.

The Board also applauded actions by the FCC and the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission to crack down on illegal use of the 10-meter band by taxi drivers in the city and urges confiscation of equipment and fines to drivers who fail to comply and eventual removal of illegal transmitters from New York City cabs.

Approved by the Board were rules changes for the DXCC program that had been recommended by the DXCC 2000 Committee. Under the new criteria, no countries currently on the DXCC list will be removed. In the future, countries will be referred to as entities. A political entity will be added to the DXCC list if it meets any one of three criteria: it is a UN member state, it has an ITU prefix block assigned, or it has a separate IARU member society. The new criteria also replace all DXCC measurements, including physical separation distances, with metric system figures roughly equivalent to the former distances. While the 57 entities on the deleted list will remain, no new countries will be added to the deleted list in the future. Deleted entities simply will be removed. In addition, the new rules specify a minimum "island" size of 100 meters measured in a straight line. The DXCC field checking program will remain in place. The effective date of the changes will be announced later this year. The DXCC 2000 Committee was discharged with the Board's thanks.

On a 11-4 vote, the Board decided to *not* draft a petition to the FCC to simplify the Amateur Radio license structure and to increase HF privileges for Novice and Technician Plus licensees. In general, the plan would have asked the FCC to halt issuance of new Novice licenses while continuing to renew existing licenses, to rearrange current HF CW allocations for Novice and Tech Plus licensees to provide expanded HF phone frequencies, and to add 75- and 15-meter phone privileges for Tech Plus holders. No changes in Morse code testing were proposed. Rejection of the plan completes the Board's consideration of a committee proposal that it first received at its January 1997 meeting, and that had been the subject of membership study and comment during the year.

On a 10-5 vote, the Board *declined* to refer to the Executive Committee for study a proposal to ask the FCC to reduce the number of license classes to three.

The Board agreed to have the League petition the FCC to permit additional call sign formats in its special event call sign rules. These new formats would include 1x1 call signs with the letter X as a suffix; 1xx1 and 1xx3 call signs (eg. W25Z or K75AAA), and call signs starting with the letter N and having two

mentioned that the club has one life time member whom the club pays the subscription to BSSS and that there are 7 free subscriptions that the club sends to local libraries and community leaders.

Bill recommended that Buck night start fresh and the winner of this evening's buck night was the club secretary who returned the dollar to the now famous Field Day Food & Beverage Fund.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m. and was followed by a presentation/meeting of the BATS (AKA Badgerland Amateur Television Society).

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday February 17, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. in room 14 of the Baraboo Civic Center.

Sincerely,
Raymond J. Matlosz, N9MLZ, Club secretary

The following members and guests were present:

Bill Klinkner	N9KXX	Sauk City
Dave Spearing	KB9CSW	Portage
Joe Imilkowski	W9CWD	
	Fitchburg/Madison	
Bill Hommel	KA9QFJ	Baraboo
Thomas Harrison	N9PQJ	Reedsburg
Jim Paul	N9LKY	Baraboo
Leonard Wagner	N9XJG	Baraboo
Art Kleefisch	W9WSS	Baraboo
Tom Weeden	W9JH	Madison

digits and two suffix letters (eg. N25MM).

In other actions, the Board:

- * resumed the important strategic planning process by creating a Strategic Planning Steering Committee that will develop detailed procedures to review and revise the ARRL Strategic Plan and work with the Executive Vice President to pick a facilitator. The Board developed a strategic plan in 1994 that requires updating in view of telecommunications developments since that time.

- * renamed the Technical Excellence Award as the Doug DeMaw Technical Excellence Award, as requested by several members who have earned the award.

- * authorized appointment of a volunteer ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator. Working with IARU organizations in the Americas and other parts of the world, the ARDF Coordinator would promote radio direction finding in the US.

- * approved in principle the establishment of the ARRL Alternative Dispute Resolution Service as a low-cost alternative for hams finding themselves in disagreements with other hams, such as in frequency utilization disputes, and who wish to avoid legal action.

- * directed the Volunteer Resources Committee to study the "E-Mail Elmers" project in the Great Lakes Division and the "Get on the Air" project in the New England Division and recommend ways to establish a national program that incorporates the benefits of these programs and other features to encourage new licensees to become active.

- * created an International Membership, open to anyone who holds a current ham license but who is not eligible for full membership by virtue of residence.

- * agreed to permit the advertising of performance claims (ie, antenna gain figures) derived from antenna modeling programs in QST, subject to certain conditions.

- * endorsed the APRS/Manned Space "APRS QSY Activity" compromise as a way to share frequencies in the two-meter band to minimize interference between APRS activities and communication between Earth and manned spacecraft. The League also pledged a donation of up to \$500 to support the APRS QSY initiatives.

- * retired the Public Service Advisory Committee "with deepest thanks and appreciation." Specialized ad hoc committees will now handle issues formerly addressed to the PSAC.

- * recognized Directors Ed Metzger, W9PRN, and Frank Butler, W4RH, for their 40 years of service as elected ARRL officials.

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SWAPFESTS



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SUNDAY
JANUARY 11, 1998

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Richard Center, WI
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Amy L. Tlachac, N9TLN
Wisconsin Rapids, WI

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P. O. BOX 1072 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201

HAM IT UP EVERY SPRING! MADISON SWAPFEST SUNDAY, APRIL 5, 1998

John Q. Hammons Trade Center
1313 John Q. Hammons Drive
Just west of intersection of Beltline and Greenway Blvd.
Sponsored by MARA/W9HSY

P. O. Box 8890 Madison, WI 53708-8890
Swapfest Information Line: (608) 245-8890

SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB SWAPFEST 98

July 11, 1998

(Held every July)

American Legion Park

Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI

(414) 762-3235 Extension 58
P. O. Box 102 South Milwaukee, WI 53172

Fox Cities Hamfest Sunday, November 2, 1997

Starlite Club, Hwy. 55 north of Kaukana

HAMFEST INFO:

Chad Pennings, N9PRC
1912 Russett Ct., Apt. 7
Appleton, WI 54914
(920) 993-0485

EXAM INFO:

Larry Siebers, KD9IA
(414) 759-1167

Lakeshore Hamfest and Computer Swapfest

Manitowoc County Expo

Intersection of Hwys. 42-151 and I-43 on Cty. Hwy. R
Saturday, May 9, 1998

For more information, call:

Glenn, AA9MT: 920-684-7096
Red, N9GHE: 920-684-9097

ManCoRad Radio Club • P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI 54221-0204

TRI-COUNTY ARC PRESENTS HAMFEST 1998

YOUR SPRING FAVORITE!

Sunday, March 15, 1998

Jefferson County Fairgrounds

TCARC • 213 Frederick Street
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

414-563-6381
Evenings

The Central Wisconsin Radio Amateurs presents the 21st annual Swapfest and Auction SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 1998

U.S. Army Reserve Center • Junction City, WI
BIGGER AND BETTER!

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Information: Call, write, or email John Feltz, W9JN
973 E. 1st St., Junction City WI 54443-9614 • (715) 457-2508
E-MAIL: jfw9jn@tznnet.com

Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club SWAPFEST

Saturday, July 11, 1998

Eau Claire County Fairgrounds

Intersection of Highways 93 and I-94

Carol Ceraso • (715) 723-9205 Liz Searing • (715) 834-1303
P.O. Box 1867 • Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867
<http://www.ecarc.org>

RACINE AMATEUR RADIO AND COMPUTER SHOW Sunday, July 26, 1998

8 A.M. - 2 P.M.

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East Frontage Road Between Highway 20 and Highway K
OUTDOOR AND INDOOR SALES

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Advance Tickets \$ASE and \$4.00

Send to RMC, P.O. Box 3, Racine, WI 53401

Ozaukee Radio Club 20TH ANNUAL RADIO AND COMPUTER SWAPFEST Saturday, May 2, 1998

8 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Circle B Recreation Center
Intersection of Highway 60 and County I
Exams by Badger Examiners, c/o Gary Sharbuno,
5119 W. Willow Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53222
Swapfest sponsored by the Ozaukee Radio Club
W58 N985 Essex Drive, Cedarburg, WI 53012-1439

Circus City Swapfest

Sponsored by The Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club

Saturday August 8, 1998 • 7 a.m. - noon
Sauk County Fairgrounds • Baraboo, WI

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Tail Gate Area

\$4 - Advanced
\$5 - At Gate
8 Foot Tables - \$5

Steve Schulze, N9UDO
(808) 356-2313/356-4777
<http://www.thelox.com/~ssschulze/hamfest.htm>

Bill Klinkner, N9KXX
(608) 643-6908/643-6453

Red Cedar Repeater Association, Inc.

AUCTION

February 24, 1998 • 7:00 p.m.

American Legion Post 53 • 634 Water Street
Eau Claire, WI

CONTACT:

Steve Hart, KA9OMC
E616 810th Ave.

715-665-2374
Knapp, WI 54749

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